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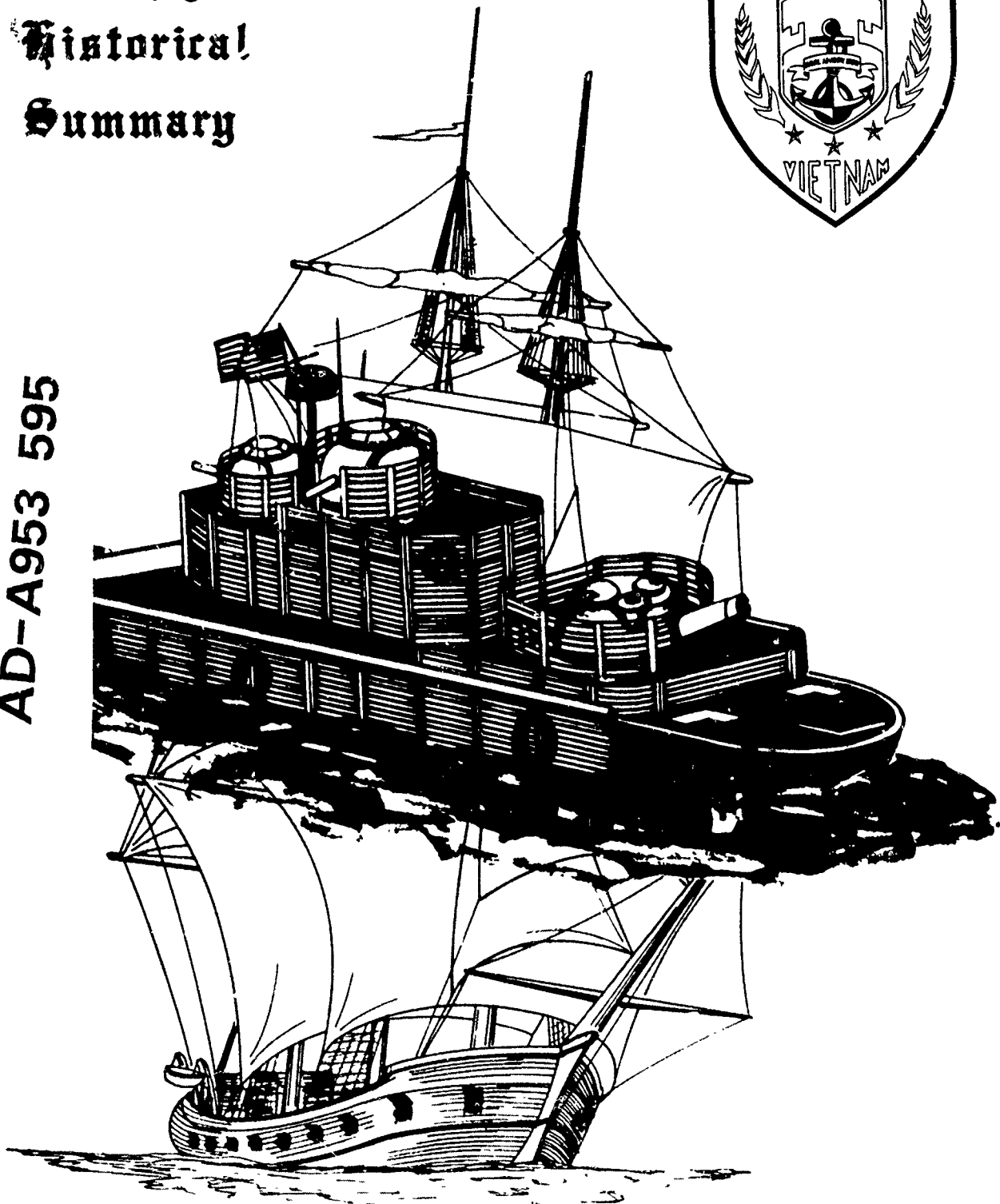
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VIETNAM
MONTHLY HISTORICAL SUMMARY

May 1970

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FOREWORD

Enemy activity within the Republic of Vietnam was characterized during the month of May by a relatively moderate to low level in all Corps Tactical Areas. There were periods of increased enemy activity, but these occurred during the early portion of the month and may have been carry-overs from previous enemy planning.

Operations in Cambodia were of primary interest during the month. Allied Forces commenced operations in the border area of Cambodia adjacent to the III Corps Tactical Area in early May. The NVA/VC, at this same time, were pushing the Cambodian forces back all along the border. During the first week of May, the NVA/VC forces captured the strategic town of Neak Luong, where Route #1 crosses the Mekong River, and continued to mount pressure on border and coastal towns in an apparent attempt to isolate Cambodia. During this first week of May, Communist China broke relations with the government of Cambodia and recognized the exiled government under Sihanouk.

On 9 May, U. S. and Vietnamese Navy forces crossed the border into Cambodia. By mid-month, units of the VNMC had secured the area of the Neak Luong ferry crossing, and the VNN had successfully completed the first of several refugee lifts from Phnom Penh. The Mekong River from the RVN border to Neak Luong was secured by VNN and USN units. VNN units patrolled the Mekong to Phnom Penh in order to keep this vital commerce link open.

By the end of May, the enemy's apparent plan was still to attempt to isolate Cambodia, topple the government, and secure a base area in Cambodia to replace that which had been overrun by the Allies across-the-border operations. Intelligence analysis of the enemy's activities indicates that he is concentrating on interdicting Cambodian lines of communication by destroying bridges, rail lines, ferries, roads, in an attempt to isolate Cambodia. This interdiction effort, the securing of the Mekong LOC/base area, and the movement of major enemy units into Cambodia indicates that the enemy plans a long range and dedicated offensive effort in Central Indochina.



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CHANGE OF COMMAND

On May 15th, ADMIRAL Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr. was relieved as Commander Naval Forces, Vietnam by VADM Jerome H. King, Jr. The change of command ceremony was held aboard USS PAGE COUNTY (LST-1076) moored in the Saigon River near the Vietnamese Navy Headquarters in Saigon.

Guest speakers included General Creighton W. Abrams, Commander U. S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam and Commodore Tran Van Chon, Chief of Naval Operations of the Republic of Vietnam Navy. General Abrams presented Admiral Zumwalt with the Distinguished Service Medal and bestowed the Navy Unit Commendation ribbon on the Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam staff on behalf of the Secretary of the Navy. Admiral Zumwalt was cited "for exceptionally meritorious service to the government of the United States in a duty of great responsibility as Commander, U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam / Chief, Naval Advisory Group, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam from October 1968 to May 1970."

At the close of the ceremony, Admiral Zumwalt delivered the following address:

"Ambassador Berger, General Abrams, Commodore Chon, Admiral King, distinguished guests, officers and men of the Free World. I want first to thank the officers and men of this wonderful ship who came in here a few days ago, with the appearance of battle and salt sea spray -- and who have turned this ship into a magnificent platform for this formality. And second to thank you distinguished guests for taking your time to participate.

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"During these past 20 months I have had five sources of inspiration. My family, understanding the demands of my job, pride in a son who was willing to volunteer to come over here and join in our effort. Second, the teammanship of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps officers and men. Third, the tremendous association with the Vietnamese Navy, embodied personally in Commodore Chon and his wonderful family who have taken my family and me into their hearts and have helped us to understand and come to love the Vietnamese people. Next, to General Abrams - tough, demanding, compassionate, and understanding. A great military captain in war. And last, to the Brown Water Navy itself, for their sacrifices and heroism. Symbolic of this, just 11 hours ago, the President of the United States awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor to LCDR Thomas G. Kelly, who lost an eye and stood out for an ensuing five hour period in battle in his boat.

"As I look back over these 20 months, I see a map of South Vietnam with the Navy operating along the edges. In the Cua Viet River just south of the DMZ, in the Naval Support Activity Danang - providing the sustenance to our Marine associates - in Market Time along the coast, in pacification operations in the Rung Sat Special Zone, and in the Nam Can area and in the latter part, completely along the Cambodian border in Operation SEALORDS. And I see that map changing from blue, representing the U. S. Navy, to green, representing the Vietnamese Navy, all along and throughout that area. The Marine Corps, expanding by 50% and the Navy by 120%.

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"I welcome Admiral King, in whom I had the good fortune to participate in his selection, and I have to tell him that the job is only about 35 or 40 percent done. There remains in this year 29 bases to be completed to replace U. S. Navy ships, there remains 7,500 repair technicians to be trained in these bases, there remains the job of upgrading the training of these beginners to the point where they relieve our senior petty officers and junior officers and take over their own middle management.

"But, I leave in the most exciting week of all. A week in which the Vietnamese Navy dramatically demonstrated its progress, in which, participating with the U. S. Navy, they opened up the Mekong River for the first 30 miles and participating without the U. S. Navy made a dramatic movement to Phom Phem and then overnight to Kompong Cham with a three inch gunship and armored boats. This was a tremendous feat of professionalism and navigation and during which they removed some nine thousand refugees and escorted merchant ships back down the river who had previously been denied passage.

"As I go to my next job I am following a man who was singularly well qualified and I go in with many handicaps. You in the Navy know that I have never had a numbered fleet command or never commanded an ocean. But, I do think I have some advantages. First, again, I take with me my family. Second, I take with me a tremendous insight into the workings of the Army, the Air Force and the Marine Corps. Third, I think I have a keen insight into the need for my Navy to continue to provide priority to this Vietnamization process. Next, I, as one

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member of the Joint Chiefs, will always understand the tremendous study, the tremendous efforts and analysis that goes in to any recommendation General Abrams sends forward. And finally, despite my handicaps, in these last 20 months, I have become re-qualified in youth. I have learned from these wonderful young officers and men - their aspirations, the pressures under which they operate, the inducements to be discontented, the courage with which they participate nevertheless to the fullest in the support of their country -- and I pledge myself to represent them in my leadership of the U. S. Navy."

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OPERATION TRAN HUNG DAO XI

At 0730H on 9 May, a joint American and Vietnamese task force swept up the Mekong River into Cambodia. The mission of this task force was to establish and ensure the security of the Mekong River from the Cambodian border to the capital of Phnom Penh and to assist in the evacuation of refugees as required. The task force's immediate objective was the Neak Luong Ferry, a strategic point where Highway One crosses the Mekong. This town was held by the VC and thus interdicted important lines of communications between Phnom Penh and the Parrot's Beak area of Cambodia where U. S. and South Vietnamese forces were conducting operations.

RADM H. S. Matthews, First SEALORDS and Deputy COMNAVFORV, was given command of the American portion of the operation. The task organization was set up as follows:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Commander</u>
TG 194.0	Group Commander	First SEALORDS
TU 194.0.1	Amphibious Assault Unit	CATF 211 VNN
TE 194.0.1.1	Assault Element A-RAIDS 70 and 71 and 5th Bn. VNMC	CTG 211.1 VNN
TE 194.0.1.2	Assault Element B-RAIDS 72 and 73 and 1st Bn. VNMC	CTG 211.2 VNN
TE 194.0.1.3	Assault Element C-RAIDS 74 and 75 and 4th Bn. VNMC	CTG 211.3 VNN
TE 194.0.1.4	River Security Element - RID 42	
TU 194.0.2	Fast Raider/Fire Support/ River Security Unit	COMCOSRON ONE

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TE 194.0.2.1	PCF Element - 8 USN PCFs	
TE 194.0.2.2	ASPB Element - 8 ASPBs	
TE 194.0.2.3	VNN PCF Element - 15 VNN PCFs	
TU 194.0.3	Air Support Unit One	HAL-3
TE 194.0.3.1	Helo Air Support Element One	HAL-3 Det 8
TE 194.0.3.2	Helo Air Support Element Two	HAL-3 Det 9
TE 194.0.3.3	Helo Air Support Element Three	HAL-3 Det 5
TU 194.0.4	Air Support Unit Two	VAL-4
TU 194.0.5	Logistics Unit - RAG 21/33	4th Riverine Area CDR
TU 194.0.6	PBR Unit - RIVDIV 593 and RFG 55	COMRIVDIV 593
TU 194.0.7	Flagship/Staging Unit - BENEWAH, ASKARI, HUNTERDON COUNTY, YREM 16, YREM 21	CO, USS BENEWAH
TU 194.0.8	Refugee Lift Unit	VNN Fleet Command

Opposition to the task force was very light. The Neak Luong Ferry, defended by only one VC company, was captured after a short fight. The larger forces which had been there had withdrawn before the assault. Some 2,000 refugees were found waiting at the ferry landing and were evacuated south of the border.

On 11 May, the refugee lift unit, with the approval of the Cambodian government, proceeded up the Mekong from the vicinity of the BENEWAH to Phnom Penh. This unit was composed of VNN LSTs 500 and 503, LSMs 402 and 405, LSM(H) 400, 15 VNN PCFs (which were transferred from TE 194.0.2.3), and ten LCM-8s. All USN advisors on these vessels were debarked before the unit went north of the Neak Luong Ferry on the way to the Cambodian capital. Thus, the lift of refugees from Phnom

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Penh and Kampong Cham was an entirely Vietnamese operation. It might be noted that no Americans were allowed to go north of the ferry landing during the entire operation.

The number of refugees far exceeded expectations. By 18 May, 19,750 refugees had been evacuated and thousands more were awaiting evacuation in Phnom Penh. On 22 May, a convoy consisting of LSM(H) 400, LSSL 226, PC 06, ten VNN PCFs and nine VNN PBRs sailed back up the Mekong River to Phnom Penh. Due to the unexpectedly large number of refugees, the GVN decided to delay further evacuation until more complete planning for refugee settlement could be made. Thus, at month's end, the convoy was still waiting at Phnom Penh, pending a GVN decision providing security in the meantime for the refugees.

Activity on the portion of the Mekong River in Cambodia where USN assets were operating remained at a low level. However, a number of people were kept busy first finding and then raising the two ferry boats which had operated at Neak Luong. It was known that there had been two ferry boats operating at Neak Luong, and almost immediately after the ferry landing was taken, the search for them was begun. One of the ferries was spotted on the morning of 12 May by CTG 194.0, RADM H. S. Matthews, at WT 235 235 during the course of a visual reconnaissance (VR) of the area of operations (AO). In a message to COMNAVFORV reporting the discovery, RADM Matthews said, "CTG 194.0 contemplating willing his aged eyeballs to some needy young air observer."

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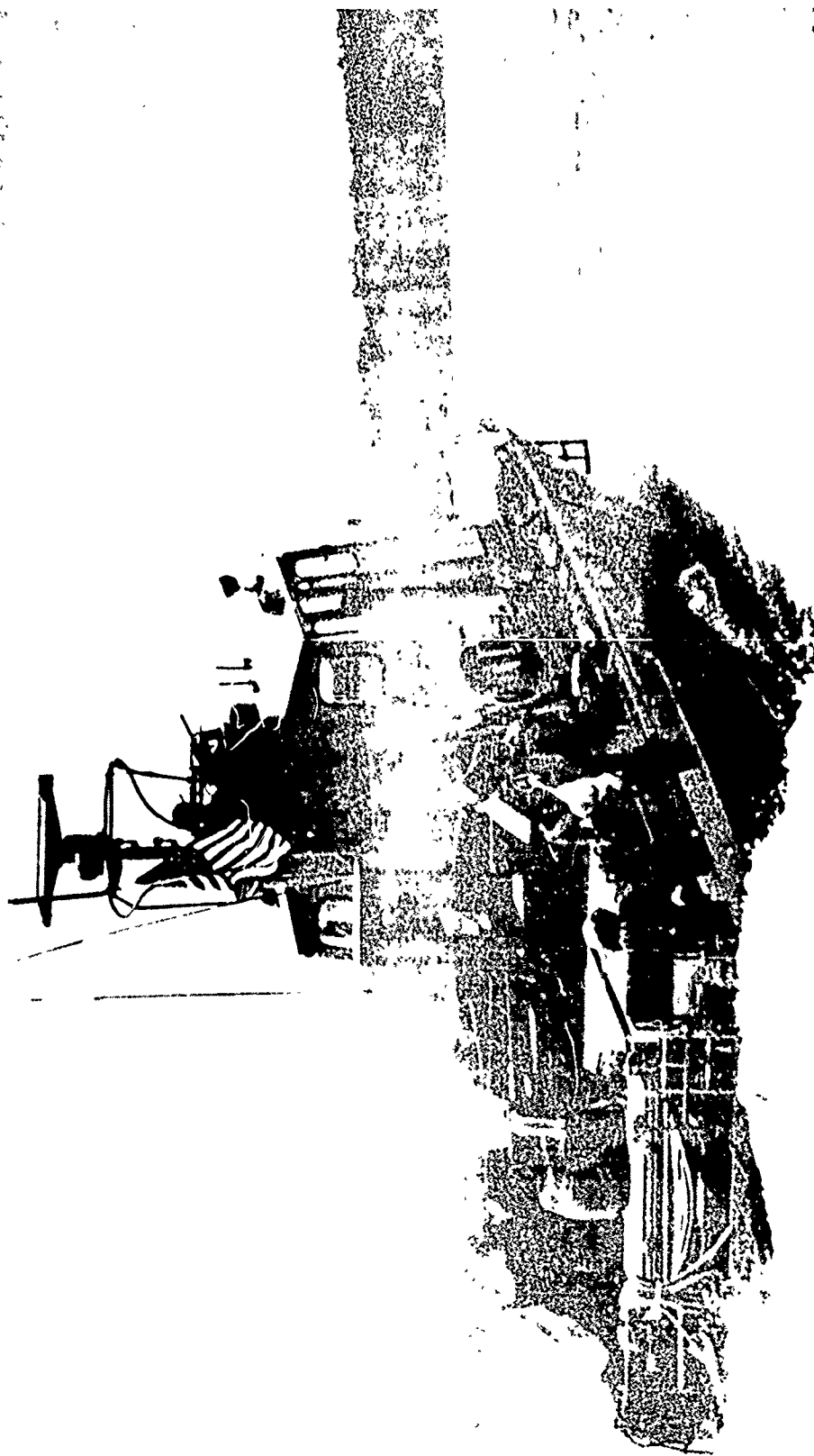
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Salvage operations, using YLLC-1, HQ-537, CSB-3, and members of HCU-1, team 5, ran into many difficulties. However, by 28 May, both ferry boats (the second one was found near the one seen by RADM Matthews) had been successfully salvaged and, badly in need of repairs, were tied up alongside the ASKARI. YLLC-1 and HQ-537 were released by CTG 194.0 on May 28th for duty elsewhere.

At month's end, the Tran Hung Dao XI task organization was as follows:

TC 194.0	Group Commander
TU 194.0.1	Amphibious Assault Unit - RAIDS 71, 72, 73, 74, and 75; 10 USN ATCs; 5 VNN PCFs; and LSIL 329
TU 194.0.2	River Security Unit - 5 USN PCFs
TU 194.0.3	Air Support Unit One - HAL-3 Det 9
TU 194.0.4	Air Support Unit Two - VAL-4
TU 194.0.5	Logistics Support Unit - RAG 21/33
TU 194.0.6	River Interdiction Unit - 11 PBRs of RIVDIV 593 and three STABs of STABRON 20
TU 194.0.7	Flag/Staging Unit - BENEWAH, ASKARI, SATYR, YRBM 16, and YRBM 21
TU 194.0.8	Refugee Lift Unit - LSM(H) 400, LSMs 403 and 405, LSSLs 225 and 226, PC 06, 10 VNN PCFs, and nine VNN PBRs

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OPERATION SEA LORDS SUMMARY

With American penetration into the Cambodian Parrot's Beak area on 30 April 1970, enemy infiltration into the Republic of Vietnam seems to have at least temporarily abated. As North Vietnamese and Viet Cong pulled back to the north and west as the Allies advanced, both in the Parrot's Beak area and along the Mekong River, enemy pressure was relieved in most SEA LORDS AOs. Units in Operations Ready Deck, Barrier Reef, and Search Turn saw very little hostile action during the month and Giant Slingshot assets were turned over to the Vietnamese Navy by 5 May. In the southernmost regions of South Vietnam, however, the Cambodian involvement was apparently of little consequence as units of Operation Breezy Cove reported a number of actions along the Song Ong Doc River and its tributaries. The Viet Cong have for some time enjoyed a relative sanctuary in the U-Minh Forest and have been able to operate from there.

Throughout the month, SEA LORDS flagship, USS BENEWAH (APB-35), remained on the Cambodian border providing support for small craft in Cambodia. The USS SATYR (ARL-23) was located at Tan Chau near the border to repair RAS boats to be turned over to the VNN in early June.

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Operation Barrier Reef

CTU 194.4 has the largest flotilla of all SEALORDS units as he must patrol the entire territory between Giant Slingshot in the east and Search Turn in the west. During May, Barrier Reef averaged 59 boats assigned, only 33 of which were normally available for use. These boats operated constantly, however, and on any given night, an average of 83% of them might be found at a WBP. Barrier Reef units were involved in a total of six fire fights in May and reported killing one Viet Cong while sustaining two wounded themselves.

The controversial nature of our military operations in Cambodia caused CTU 194.4 and COMNAVFORV some concern over the safety and legitimacy of American civilians wishing to cross the border. The American Embassy in Saigon advised them that U. S. civilians not associated with the news media are free to enter Cambodia if they possess a valid passport and visa. Patrol craft were advised to check all civilians they encountered for these documents and to restrain all personnel, including newsmen, from crossing the border if their presence endangered the security of operations.

There was only limited action in the border interdiction operations during May. While on a Mekong River patrol on 4 May, the crew of PCF 103 spotted a Viet Cong flag and requested and received permission to fire upon it. They fired 30 rounds with the 40 mm grenade launcher and reported the target destroyed.

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One Seawolf helicopter was lost in the Barrier Reef AO on 8 May. Reacting to a report of an outpost being overrun near Ap Binh Long (WS 823 472), Seawolf 300, a HAL-3 Detachment NINE ship piloted by LT Campbell, launched from YRBM-21 at 0342H. Immediately after launching the aircraft crashed into the water approximately 100 meters from the ship. All personnel were recovered without injury and EOD divers began searching for the helicopter at first light. The frogmen were unsuccessful, and it remained for a Vietnamese fisherman to point out the location of the aircraft eight days later. Divers recovered most of the helicopter's small arms and the secure voice unit.

Effective 30 May, CTG 194.4 was given responsibility for an additional 30 kilometers of the Vam Co Tay, that portion of Giant Slingshot operations previously patrolled by CTU 214.1.2. The paucity of Vietnamese assets in that area necessitated this switch.

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Search Turn

CTU 194.3, conducting Operation Search Turn, experienced a moderate amount of action during May, but considerably less than units of Breezy Cove. A rather large number of craft, 52, was assigned to CTU 194.3, but, on the average, only 30 of these were available for operation throughout the month. These units set an average of 18 WBGP's per night primarily with PBRs. They initiated nine fire fights and were involved in five initiated by the enemy. Naval personnel killed nine Viet Cong during May and suffered one killed and two wounded.

On the morning of 1 May, a 15 year-old Viet Cong squad leader gave himself up to a Search Turn outpost in Kien Giang Province under the RVN government's Chieu Hoi Program. He reported that his 20 man unit had been heading north, presumably towards Cambodia, when Navy patrol boats attacked them. The youthful defector reported that ten of his comrades were slain, increasing by six the number of kills originally indicated in an earlier spot report.

Units of RIVDIV 553 experienced the most damaging attack in the Search Turn AO during May. PBRs 8126 and 8129 were ambushed by a company size enemy post while enroute to a WGBP during a heavy rainstorm. The communists struck the leading boat, PBR 8126, with a 57 mm recoilless rifle round, a B-50 rocket, and heavy small arms fire. The intensity of the storm prevented Black Ponies or Seawolves from providing immediate air cover. On a return sweep through the ambush area, two B-40 rockets exploded close aboard the forward boat. About 30

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minutes after the initial attack, an OV 10 placed a brief air strike in the area before the weather forced it to return home. PBRs 8131, 8130, 8134, and 8135 set an ambush three kilometers south of the contact area in an effort to cut off the enemy's escape route. The elusive enemy escaped with no further action. One American was killed and two wounded on PBR 8126, and the boat itself sustained engine casualties.

On 6 May, CTU 194.3 ordered Seawolves 88 and 89 to investigate a sighting of approximately 100 sampans and 300 personnel in black and blue uniforms two kilometers east of Vinh Hao (WR 185 672). The Navy helos coordinated with an Army Hunter Killer team in the destruction of 18 of the vessels, which were loaded with clothing, utensils, food, and weapons. They received automatic weapons fire from the ground but completed the mission unscathed.

The narrow breadth of many channels and streams makes the Navy's small craft susceptible to the most rudimentary form of attack. On the evening of 6 May, a Viet Cong or VC sympathizer, standing by the edge of a channel, threw three grenades at PBR 6737 which was escorting a dredge to Long Xuyen. Two landed in the water, and the third struck boat captain RD1-Waters in the stomach and fell between his legs. Waters tossed the grenade overboard, and it exploded as it hit the water. The boat crew saw the man running back into a nearby village but could not fire because of heavy population in the vicinity.

Members of an Explosive Ordinance Disposal Team worked closely with SEALs assigned to the Search Turn AC. On 10 May, an EOD group discovered and disarmed a VC watermine 22 kilometers south of Rach Gia.

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Lines led from the mine to two 105 mm howitzer rounds buried in the mud five meters away. The watermine itself was of a type never encountered before and was sent to an EOD unit in Hawaii for further analysis.

SEAL Team members experienced some difficulty with their own support craft and relied heavily on TU 194.3 craft to continue their surreptitious operations to weaken the Viet Cong infrastructure. Before daylight on 13 May, members of GOLF Detachment, DELTA Platoon, acting on intelligence provided by their guide and a local police chief, entered a hamlet near Kien Son and captured two VC and one suspect. The same group, led by LT Short, inserted one week later in a village on the Ba The Canal near Soc Son. Upon entering a suspected VC hootch, the startled man fled through a tunnel into another hootch, only to be apprehended after a brief chase. On 22 May, LT Short's men detained 15 persons along the Kinh Tri Ton. Detainees of this sort are often questioned by the area NILO and then turned over to ARVN interrogators.

As has been proven by recent events in Cambodia, the war of logistics is a vital phase of the struggle against guerrillas. PBRs 8133 and 8127, proceeding to Binh Thuy for maintenance, contributed to this effort on 20 May when they noticed a suspicious pile of freshly cut grass along a canal bank. Investigation revealed a camouflaged food cache about three days old containing 2400 pounds of rice and 150 pounds of salt. Crew members destroyed the food with 46 white phosphorous grenades.

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Riverine Strike Group

During May, all RAC formerly assigned to CTG 194.7 (Riverine Strike Group) remained out-chopped to other operational commanders with the exception of those craft undergoing overhaul or alteration.

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Breezy Cove

Operation Breezy Cove units experienced the most hostile action of all SEA LORDS components during May. CTG 194.2 unfortunately met pressing operational commitments with rather limited resources as he had at his disposal an average of only 26 boats, by far the smallest flotilla of all SEA LORDS' operating units. Of these, only 13 were normally available for use. Breezy Cove units initiated 19 fire fights during the month and reported killing two Viet Cong. One American was wounded.

A suspected major VC offensive failed to materialize in mid-May. The Naval Intelligence Liaison Officer operating in the Song Ong Doc area reported that an "unevaluated agent" had informed him of a VC/NVA plan to overrun the city of New Song Ong Doc between 8 and 20 May. In addition, the enemy hoped to sink ten U. S. river patrol craft and to shell Ca Mau City. These attacks never occurred and naval combat continued along the same sporadic and unpredictable lines as before.

A major antagonist of warfare in equatorial regions, the monsoons, began to make an impact in early May. Heavy rains and rising seas occasionally hampered the normal operations of the Navy's sturdy, shallow water craft. In one instance, routine Breezy Cove operations were threatened as the USS GARRETT COUNTY (LST-821) could not replenish the unit's refueling barge because of heavy seas. The USS ASKARI (ARL-38) serving Breezy Cove reported that bad weather often prevented it from repairing boats. FBR 762 experienced the adverse weather more acutely.

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On 15 May, while it and three other boats of RIVDIV 572 were patrolling eight kilometers east of New Song Ong Doc during a heavy rainstorm, it received two B-50 rockets and heavy small arms fire. The four craft returned heavy fire during four runs through the area. Troops inserted and found several blood trails, three bunkers, and a rocket launcher. Because of the inclement weather, however, the air support normally flown by Seawolves could not be provided. The Viet Cong may be expected to attack under these circumstances throughout the monsoon season.

The misery and fear of civilians living in a war-torn area were poignantly revealed in May by 100 refugee families who fled to Song Ong Doc from coastal hamlets along the edge of the U-Minh Forest. These homeless and destitute people had escaped, not an ideology, but a combination of American air strikes and VC extortion which had made life intolerable in their villages. Most of the families left hastily, leaving behind their possessions, and now had no money, shelter, or source of livelihood. Officials of Song Ong Doc were able to provide very little assistance as the town was already overpopulated with refugees. CTU 194.2 felt that most of these displaced families would return home despite the hazards as the paucity of funds, food, clothing, and shelter precluded their relocation elsewhere.

Significant Action During May

Even the small craft of the Brown Water Navy experience navigational difficulties on Vietnam's serpentine and often crowded waterways. On 4 May, an ATC bound along the Song Canh Hao for the ATSB

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at Song Ong Doc ran over and sank a civilian sampan which apparently cut in front of the Navy unit. The sailors involved recovered the people from the sampan.

Seawolf 63, flying in support of Breezy Cove units, did not survive the month's operations. On the evening of 22 May, Seawolf 63 and Seawolf 66 placed an air strike on three heavily loaded sampans 15 kilometers northwest of Song Ong Doc. They received heavy automatic weapons fire, and Seawolf 63, piloted by LTJG Wolfe, experienced engine failure and crash landed. The helicopter crew established a perimeter and immediately received heavy small arms fire. Seawolf 66, aided by an Army Forward Air Controller, attempted to pick up the downed crew but was driven away by small arms fire. Within 30 minutes, Seawolf 11, Seawolf 16, Cobra gunships, and an Army Slick arrived on the scene and placed strikes around the perimeter. Amid heavy covering fire, the Slick picked up the crew members, all of which were uninjured. Recovery of the aircraft itself appeared to be dangerous, so the USCGC DALLAS (WHEC-716) was called upon to destroy it with her 5 inch guns. The DALLAS fired 60 rounds engulfing the helicopter in flames. The Seawolves and Black Ponies in the area made several more air strikes in the area and continued to receive automatic weapons fire.

Seawolf 65, flown by LT Smith, experienced a less dramatic crash on 24 May. Flying a routine patrol, the helicopter malfunctioned and landed two kilometers north of Song Ong Doc. Troops from the city quickly arrived to provide security by establishing a perimeter around the craft. Seawolf 61 rescued the crew and salvaged all small arms.

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An Army Cobra fire team provided added security from the air, and the aircraft itself was lifted at first light the following morning.

Three units of RIVDIV 554 were transiting Song Ong Doc River seven miles east of Old Song Ong Doc on 27 May when the third boat, PBR 8141, was hit on the starboard side with two rockets, and all boats received automatic weapons fire. PBR 8141 sustained extensive hull and interior damage and was immediately beached. One crew member was evacuated to Binh Thuy. The other two units made firing runs on the area, and Sea-wolf 63 and units of RIVDIV 572 and 131 scrambled to assist. Regional Forces from Old Song Ong Doc, in the immediate area, made a sweep with negative results.

The war in Vietnam is fought at such close quarters and with such ill defined battle lines that a slight miscalculation can easily end in tragedy. On 17 May, the USCGC SHERMAN (WHEC 720) fired in response to Duffle Bag sensor activation near Song Ong Doc. Seven rounds of point detonating fuze and three rounds of air bursts impacted in the immediate vicinity of the ATSB near Song Ong Doc, 1200 yards south of the proposed target, wounding eight persons. The seriously wounded personnel were quickly medevaced to the SHERMAN, but one man, SM1 Edward Habblett died shortly thereafter. Habblett, a PBR skipper in RIVDIV 572, was recommended for the Bronze Star for valor in earlier operations.

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Market Time Raider Campaign / Operation Blue Shark

The highly successful Market Time Raider Campaign came to an end on 8 May. This was not, however, the end of TF 115 assets' participation in missions along the rivers and canals of the III and IV Corps Tactical Zones. Because of the success of the Market Time Raider Campaign, an expanded operation, entitled Operation Blue Shark, was started the same day as the Market Time Raider Campaign ended.

Blue Shark is a combined USN/VNN interdiction and incursion operation in the lower Mekong Delta. The AO for Blue Shark includes the Song Vam Co, Binh Dai, Thanh Phu, and Long Tuan Secret Zones, the Dung Island area, the Football Island complex, the Sa Dec maritime area, the coastal and river boundaries in Bac Lieu Province, the major river and coastal boundaries of Ba Xuyen, Phong Dinh, An Giang, Chau Doc, Kien Phan, Sa Dec, Dinh Duong, Vinh Long, Vinh Binh, and Kien Hoa Provinces, plus certain Cambodian border patrol stations on the Hau Giang, Chau Doc, and Mekong Rivers.

The task designation for this operation is TG 194.5 with CDR Mullane (CTF 115) serving as CTG 194.5 (Commander Delta Major River Incursion Group) and the VNN CTF 213, CDR Chi, serving as his Deputy Commander.

By month's end, Operation Blue Shark had numerous successes to its credit, and its creation had more than been justified. The following narrative gives some of the highlights of Operation Blue Shark for the month of May:

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On the night of 7-8 May, CHARLIE Platoon of SEAL Team ONE, Detachment GOLF, under the command of LT Boyhan, conducted a VC infra-structure target operation in an area five kilometers east southeast of CG 36 (VIC XR 307 623). After finding 20-30 deserted sleeping stations with bunkers, fighting holes, and structures, the SEALs observed six armed VC evading and took them under fire. The platoon began receiving fire from an estimated 10-15 man force on both sides of their position. A VAL-4 OV-10 aircraft and Army Cobra Gunships were scrambled and placed strikes in the area, suppressing the enemy fire and allowing the SEALs to extract successfully without casualties. The enemy lost six killed (5 BC, 1 prob) and two wounded (prob) to the SEAL and aircraft fire power. One of the enemy dead was identified as a District Level Party Chapter Secretary.

The USCG WPBs POINT GREY and POINT BANKS, under the command of LTJG Lashley, were in action during the late afternoon and early evening hours of 22 May in an area 13 miles southeast of Tra Vinh (VIC XR 810 938). After picking up the Assistant District Chief, the WPBs, with a skimmer ranging ahead, proceeded down a canal. Four VC in a sampan were sighted and hailed. They attempted to evade but were cut down by fire from the POINT BANKS and killed. The POINT GREY observed a male evading into a structure and took the structure under fire, destroying it and the evading VC. The WPBs then assisted a group of KCS (Kit Carson Scouts) in destroying structures in the area. While this was in progress, one 40-year old male and seven females, approximately 15-17 years old, were detained by the Assistant District Chief. The

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females were thought to be sapper trainees. Four of the female detainees were taken with the Assistant District Chief as he departed the WPBs. The male and the other females were taken to CG 34 for further transfer to NILO Ben Tre.

POINT BANKS and POINT GREY, along with 40 KCS, also took part in the most successful Blue Shark mission of the month on 23 and 24 May. On the morning of 23 May, the WPBs inserted the KCS into an area 25 miles southeast of Ben Tre (VIC XS 95 20). The KCS soon made contact with VC elements and killed three while taking eight prisoners. The captured VC were taken aboard the WPBs with the KCS. All units were receiving heavy sniper fire at this time, and POINT GREY killed one evading VC. Acting on intelligence reports, the WPBs reinserted the KCS at XS 964 232 to search for a VC hospital. The KCS were unable to find the hospital but did capture four VC who were recent patients and were recovering. One of the captured VC said he would lead the KCS to the hospital and also revealed that seven U. S. POWs were in the area for VC propaganda purposes. Low tide forced a postponement of the mission until the following morning, so the KCS were extracted by skimmers and the WPBs patrolled the area for the remainder of the night with no contact.

At 0600H on 24 May, the KCS and the VC informant were transferred by skimmer to the alleged site of the hospital. However, no hospital was there, and the VC suddenly could not remember where it was. The KCS were extracted and inserted at XS 965 187 where POINT BANKS had observed 12 VC. A KCS sweep of the area netted eight more

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VC prisoners. The two day operation resulted in the killing of four VC and the capture of 20 others as well as the destruction of six sampans, 11 structures, and eight bunkers. Two kilos of documents and three grenades were also captured.

In the early morning hours of 29 May, 16 SEALs from HOTEL Platoon of SEAL Team ONE, Detachment GOLF, with LTJG Stinson in command, inserted into an area eight kilometers northeast of Sa Dec (VIC WS 907 397). After searching one hootch with no success, the SEALs found an occupied hootch and interrogated the occupants. They confirmed intelligence reports that a VC commo-liaison station was located in another nearby hootch. The SEAL Platoon patrolled to the VC hootch and found a large bunker inside. Three VC fled the bunker and were killed by the SEALs (2 BC, 1 prob) who then destroyed the half ton of rice found in the hootch and the hootch itself. There were no SEAL casualties during the encounter.

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE SUMMARYOperation Market Time

Market Time and Stable Door forces continued their normal operations during the month of May. There were a total of 29,005 watercraft detected by Market Time and Stable Door units in their patrols along the coasts, rivers, and harbors of the Republic of Vietnam. Of these craft, 10,418 underwent inspection while another 3,679 were boarded. These inspections and boardings resulted in the detention of 292 craft and 370 persons. As in past months, the detentions were for lack of or faulty identification papers, incorrect or faulty manifests, violations of restricted zones, and other suspicious activities.

Task Force 115 units conducted a total of 434 naval gunfire, SEALORDS, Sea Float, and Sea Tiger missions during the month of May. The percentage of missions with gun damage assessment (GDA) was 39 percent. The overall results of these missions were:

- 84 enemy killed (53 body count, 31 probable)
- 12 enemy wounded
- 40 enemy captured
- 49 junks/sampans destroyed
- 16 junks/sampans damaged
- 399 structures/bunkers destroyed
- 45 structures/bunkers damaged

Two U. S. sailors were killed and another 25 wounded in Market Time operations during the month. There were also 6 friendlies wounded in action.

The Market Time Air Evaluation Exercise, PENTREX II, which began in the latter days of April, was completed on 11 May. Eleven ships (TF 115 and SEVENTHFLT units) transited through the patrol zone from east to west and eight were detected. Of 11 ships transiting through the barrier from west to east, five were detected.

An SL-4 type trawler was sighted attempting to make a "real life" penetration on 19 May. VP aircraft shadowed the trawler, which altered course northward, until relieved by the USS BRINKLEY BASS (DD 887) on the following day (VIC 13-47N 112-50E). The BRINKLEY BASS terminated the SL-4 surveillance when the trawler entered CHICOM waters at 19-39N 111-25E at 0545H on 22 May.

On 29 May, a Market Time aircraft on routine patrol sighted a modified SL-3 type trawler at 19-02N 112-14E. When sighted, the trawler went DIW and then changed course and headed for Lincoln Island where she anchored one half mile north of the island. Another trawler, believed to be a resupply vessel, was also sighted near the SL-3 trawler the following day. USS DELIVER (ARS 23) was dispatched from Danang to conduct surveillance operations. DELIVER relieved the shadowing aircraft at Lincoln Island on 2 June. The supply vessel got underway and departed the area on the morning of 4 June. The SL-3 trawler did not get underway until 6 June. When underway, the trawler flew a

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CHICOM flag and headed for Hainan Island. DELIVER maintained surveillance of the trawler until the early morning hours of 7 June when the trawler approached CHICOM territory. This was the fifth probable infiltration attempt by trawlers detected so far this year.

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First Coastal Zone

The number of watercraft detected by Market Time units in the First Coastal Zone escalated sharply during the month of May. A total of 5,901 craft were detected and, of these, 4,125 were inspected and another 103 boarded. There were only 18 naval gunfire support and Sea Tiger missions conducted in May. This low figure was due mainly to the stand down of 20 River Division 543 PBRs commencing 26 May in preparation for their turnover to the VNN on 31 May. These PBRs became part of RPG 60 in ceremonies at SCRF (Small Craft Repair Facility) Danang on that date. Operations in the Sea Tiger AO were also transferred to VNN control at this time.

Typical activity in Operation Sea Tiger during May included a patrol conducted by RIVDIV 543 PBRs 95 and 131 under the command of Patrol Officer TMC Turner on the night of 3 May. The PBRs were in a WEGP with a sniper set in the vicinity of BT 107 577, five kilometers east of Hoi An when a patrol of seven to ten VC/NVA were sighted. The sniper took the patrol under fire felling two of the enemy. The PBRs then swept the area with fire, receiving S/A fire in return.

The USS GUIDE (MSO 447) served as a Market Time Patrol Ship in the First Coastal Zone for most of the month of May. The following is an example of her activities:

On the afternoon of 23 May, GUIDE detected two 30 foot dual engine sampans in restricted waters. On spotting the MSO, the sampans immediately headed south at best speed. The GUIDE quickly took up the chase, firing

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warning shots in an attempt to halt the evading sampans. After 20 minutes, one of the sampans suddenly stopped, and its occupants nonchalantly began fishing. The GUIDE pulled alongside, searched the sampan, and found it had no boat book. The junkmaster reported it was at Cua Viet but gave no reason. The six occupants of the sampan were detained and the sampan taken in tow. They were later turned over to CG 11.

Second Coastal Zone

Activity in the Second Coastal Zone remained at a very low level during May. A total of 1,101 watercraft were detected in Second Coastal Zone waters. Of these, 672 were inspected and another 22 boarded. There were only seven naval gunfire support missions fired during the month and gun damage assessment (GDA) was unknown.

Third Coastal Zone

Water traffic in the Third Coastal Zone dropped off somewhat in May as 3,760 craft were detected, 1,242 of which were inspected and another 1,843 boarded. Market Time "Swift" boats also continued their patrols in the Game Warden area of operations. The lower Bassac River was patrolled continuously during the month while the lower Ham Luong was patrolled from 1-3 May and the lower Cua Tieu on 4 May. There were a total of 1,703 craft detected on these rivers by Market Time Forces with 400 of them inspected and 1,116 others boarded. There were no incidents of evading craft, and two craft and 21 persons were detained by the PCFs.

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A total of 84 naval gunfire support missions were fired by Market Time units in the Third Coastal Zone in May. As in past months these missions consisted of H&I, targets of opportunity, pre-planned river and canal incursions, and requests for urgent gunfire support. Gun damage assessment for these missions continued to be high.

On 1 May, PCFs 21, 27, 31, 32, 55, 61, 65, 78, and 95 were turned over to the Vietnamese Navy during a colorful ceremony at the PCF piers of the U. S. Naval Support Activity Detachment, Cat Lo. Two USCG WPBs, the POINT BANKS and the POINT LOMAS, also joined the ranks of the growing Vietnamese Navy during the month of May. They were turned over in ceremonies at Cat Lo on 26 May.

The following incidents are representative of action encountered by Market Time forces in the Third Coastal Zone:

Six SEALs from CHARLIE Platoon of SEAL Team ONE, Detachment GOLF, led by LT Boyan, conducted a recon patrol in an area five kilometers east of CG 36 (VIC XR 290 656) on the afternoon of 2 May. They sighted two males in sampans who evaded successfully. A search of the sampans showed them to be VC. The SEALs then began to receive S/A fire which they quickly suppressed. They then destroyed the two sampans, two bunkers, and 600 pounds of rice they had found, and were extracted by LSSC.

In the waning hours of 5 May, PCFs 73 and 48 were called in to help support a SEAL unit in an area three miles northeast of Sa Dec (VIC WS 908 386). Numerous warning lights and shots were observed on

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both sides of the canal. The "Swifts" entered, and the SEALs and PCF 73 took the sites of the lights under fire. At approximately 0045H on 6 May, a sampan approached PCF 73 with one wounded VN male, one woman, and three children. The man and woman were interrogated but gave conflicting stories and finally refused to answer further questions. The wounded male was medevaced to the Army hospital at Sa Dec for treatment and further interrogation.

The USCG WPB POINT MAST conducted H&I fire missions on VC positions 26 miles southeast of Tra Vinh (VIC XR 710 774) on the afternoon of 24 May. The WPB started many fires and received hostile fire from S/A and A/W and returned fire probably killing one VC. Four structures were destroyed, and two secondary explosions and many fires were observed.

Fourth Coastal Zone

Market Time units detected 2,232 watercraft in the Fourth Coastal Zone in May. They inspected 761 and boarded another 332. Ten naval gunfire support missions were fired by CTG 115.4 units during the month. The gun damage assessment (GDA) for these missions was relatively low.

A typical mission in the Fourth Coastal Zone in May was that of PCF 37 on 7 May. The "Swift" observed a camouflaged sampan on the beach at VR 82 42. After receiving sector clearance, the sampan was taken under fire and destroyed.

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Sea Float / Tran Hung Dao III

The month of May was filled with numerous trials and tribulations for the U. S. Navy forces assigned to Operation Sea Float. Faced with increased enemy pressure, serious logistics resupply problems, and the lack of adequate troop and tactical air support, the Navymen of Sea Float gamely continued their efforts to keep the enemy off balance by destroying his base camps, extortion stations, and secret areas while interdicting his known and suspected routes of travel. These efforts met with some success but at the heavy cost of two U. S. Navy personnel killed and 25 wounded. Six friendlies were also wounded during the month. The enemy lost 71 killed (49 BC, 22 prob), nine wounded, and 17 captured in May.

There was mounting evidence throughout the month that the enemy was steadily increasing his forces in the Sea Float AO. Increased enemy pressure was detected in all facets of Sea Float operations. U. S. and VNN ships and boats were ambushed a total of 15 times by enemy launch bombs and rockets during May. These attacks resulted in damage to three PCFs, one ATC, one PG, one LSSC, and the sinking of a VNN Yabuta junk. One U. S. Army Slick helicopter was also damaged when ambushed by enemy fire during the month.

The VNN LSM HQ-404 continued to make resupply runs between Nha Be and Sea Float throughout the month in order to keep the Ammi complex and Solid Anchor site supplied with fresh water and a sufficient amount of diesel fuel. These resupply runs continued into the month of June.

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While helping to alleviate the immediate needs of the Sea Float complex, these runs still do not provide a long term answer to the problem.

Another major problem facing the men of Sea Float in May was the lack of troop support for over two weeks. The MSF troops, who had performed so well in past months, were withdrawn from Sea Float on 15 May. Although repeatedly assured that an infantry company would be sent to replace the MSF troops, Sea Float had to wait until 30 May before a 96 man CIDG unit arrived on the scene. The Sea Float command also ran into extreme difficulties in trying to obtain the services of tactical air support units for the Sea Float AO in order to better confront the mounting enemy pressure in the area. These difficulties continued at month's end.

One bright spot on the somewhat dismal outlook for Sea Float in May was the continuing progress being made at the Solid Anchor site. By the end of the month, the 93 Seabees assigned to the project had completed four perimeter bunkers, placed concrete for the deck of a 500 man galley, and continued work on the prefab shell of a 920 man galley, the Solid Anchor drainage system, the exterior sheathing of one BEQ, and the interior wiring of the ATSB Sea Huts and general warehouse.

An interesting situation has arisen out of the naming of the two villages contained within the Sea Float Annex. These two villages had been named Tran Hung Dao I and II by U. S. and VN Naval commands when established. However, in recent months it has been noted that the inhabitants of the villages and their district and province officials

have elected to call the villages Ham Rong Hamlet vice Tran Hung Dao I and II. This could very well lead to some confusion in the future as a test of will power appears to be in the offing.

On 12 May, COMNAVFORV, then VADM E. R. Zumwalt, Jr., his relief, VADM J. H. King, Jr., and CAPT Emerson, NAVFORV ACOS for Operations, visited the Sea Float complex. The distinguished guests were briefed on Sea Float/Solid Anchor operations and toured the Solid Anchor site before departing for Ca Mau.

Sea Float Missions

It has already been noted that waterborne units operating from Sea Float were the unhappy recipients of 15 enemy ambushes during the month. It is also significant to note that of all the hostile fire missions that inflicted either personnel or material casualties on the U. S. Navy forces of Operation Market Time, only one occurred outside of the Sea Float AO. The overwhelming majority of those missions in the Sea Float AO which resulted in U. S. casualties were enemy initiated ambushes. A short description of some of these encounters is listed below:

On 1 May, RAC units T-4, T-9, and M-3 were proceeding south from New Nam Can on the Rach Cai Nhap (VIC WQ 078 765). One ambush site had already been spotted and the four launch tubes and two B-50 rockets found there captured. Suddenly two rockets (one B-50, one larger rocket unidentified) struck the starboard side of T-9 which had to be beached to avoid sinking. T-9 was later dewatered and, lashed to M-3, returned

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to Sea Float. Results of return fire by the RAC units and scrambled Seawolves was unknown.

The USS ANTELOPE (PG 86) was ambushed twice within seven days. In the early hours of 4 May, she was struck by a B-40 rocket while anchored near the Sea Float complex. On 11 May, she was ambushed while proceeding out Song Bo De (VIC WQ 210 690). At least eight B-50 rockets were fired at the PG, but fortunately, none struck the vessel.

On the afternoon of 5 May, an HSSC with two SEAL squads enroute to insertion points was hit by a B-40 rocket and heavy S/A fire (VIC WQ 044 655) which wounded several navymen. Aborting the mission, the HSSC called in Seawolves and Black Ponies and turned around to proceed north. Shortly after reversing course, the HSSC was struck by three more B-40 rockets, two of which penetrated the hull, wounding several more sailors. Seawolves and Black Ponies pounded the ambush site with unknown results. Eleven SEALs and six MST sailors were wounded in the engagement.

PCF 50 proved the old adage that bad things come in threes as she was ambushed three times during the month. The first ambush, on 4 May, caused no damage. The second, by a Claymore mine on 6 May, ripped open a seam 18 inches long by 3 inches wide on her port bow. The third ambush, on 16 May, proved to be the unlucky charm. Steaming east on the Song Dam Doi (VIC WQ 270 740) in company with PCFs 64 and 692, and an MSSC, PCF 50 was hit amidships on her port side by a launch bomb. She beached immediately to avoid sinking and commenced returning suppression

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fire. PCF 64, the second boat of the convoy, was then struck by a second launch bomb and S/A fire. Seawolves and Black Ponies were scrambled, and, with PCF 692, saturated the ambush area with fire. RD3 Frederick Don Snyder of PCF 50 was fatally wounded in the exchange, while PT2 Douglas E. Hobbs of SEAL Team One, Detachment GOLF, who was on PCF 64, was killed instantly. Three other U. S. sailors were wounded as were four Kit Carson Scouts (KCS).

Attempts to refloat PCF 50 that day were unsuccessful and she remained beached until the following day when she was refloated and taken to the Solid Anchor site where she was once again beached. She was later towed to the Naval Support Activity Detachment at Cat Lo for repairs.

PCFs 35 and 692, escorting the tug SKIPJACK with two barges (VIC WQ 203 720), were ambushed on 15 May by three B-50 rockets. PCF 35 was struck by one rocket on her port side amidships at the waterline which opened a hole 20 inches wide by six inches high. The other two rockets missed the "Swifts." Fortunately, only one U. S. sailor was wounded, and his wound was minor. Although heavy suppression fire by both PCFs and Seawolves was directed into the area of the ambush enemy casualties, if any, were unknown.

VNN units were not immune to the rash of rocket ambushes perpetrated by the enemy in the Sea Float AO during the month of May. On 26 May, Yabuta junks 133 and 125 were ambushed on the Rach Cai Nhap (VIC WQ 068 780) by five B-50 rockets. Two of the rockets hit the Y-133 which sank. Two VNN were wounded by the rocket fire. PCFs 98 and 37

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inserted a Biet Hai reaction force into the ambush site and four B-50 launch tubes, with two B-50 rockets ready to fire, were captured.

As is obvious by the accounts of these ambushes, the most frustrating thing for the Sea Float forces is the ability of the enemy to inflict a great deal of damage to U. S. and VNN craft and personnel while melting into the surrounding terrain himself. The enemy's ambush tactics must be considered to have been highly successful in May. However, the men of Sea Float had numerous successes of their own during the month as the following incidents attest.

On 10 May, four SEALs with five KCS, an interpreter, and a guide embarked on PCFs 693 and 82 with a large motorized sampan in tow. Once in the patrol area the SEALs and KCSs transferred to the sampan and transited down the Rach Cai Chon to WQ 137 646 with all personnel in the sampan hidden under panchos. They pulled up to the canal bank and approximately one half hour later heard voices and an approaching sampan. The sampan, with two males aboard, came alongside and inquired as to the contents of the SEALs' sampan. As the spot report states, "Contents of sampan replied with volley of fire as both attempted to evade." The two, who were both killed, were identified as a provincial level finance cadre and his body guard.

Seven SEALs with 20 KCSs surprised a sampan with seven armed males while on patrol in the vicinity of WQ 152 684 on 13 May. Both groups opened fire, and two enemy were killed and another wounded, while two KCSs suffered minor wounds. The KCSs chased the evading VC north on

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the canal until they came under fire from both the east and west banks. Seawolves, already in the air providing cover for a tug and barge escort, were called in and put in strikes and cover fire for the SEAL and KCS extraction. PCFs 50 and 35, who were escorting a tug and barges nearby, also commenced to cover the extraction. The SEALs and KCSs were extracted by PCF 35 under enemy fire. PCFs 693 and 98, who had originally inserted the SEALs and KCSs and had then taken station as directed for commo-relay support, took over the tug and barge escort. Black Ponies also joined the Seawolves in placing strikes in the area. Later intelligence revealed that 11 of the enemy were killed by these air strikes and another five wounded. A possible company size force had been attempting to cross the Cua Lon when intercepted and turned back by the combined efforts of all units involved.

On 30 May, a spotter aircraft sighted six camouflaged sampans and one moving sampan near the Cua Lon River (VIC WQ 151 680). Seawolves were diverted to the area followed by PCFs 98 and 692 and an Army Slick. The seawolves destroyed three of the sampans and the "Swifts" moved in to recover as much of the sampan cargo as possible. Initial salvage operations resulted in the capture of 165 CHICOM, U. S., and VC grenades and fuses, two sewing machines, three kilos of documents, and approximately 40 kilos of military and civilian clothing plus miscellaneous other gear.

The "Swift" boats, accompanied by 20 CIDG troops, returned the following morning to continue the salvage operation. While the CIDG troops set up a perimeter, the PCF sailors recovered additional cargo. Approximately 1000 pounds of captured material was evaluated by the

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NILO at Nam Can. This material included machine shop, foundry, and metal shop equipment. Captured documents revealed that these sampans probably belonged to the VC Nam Can district workshop which was in the process of moving to a new location when sighted. This large haul of captured equipment, along with completed and partially completed launch tubes, could do much to reduce the danger of rocket and launch bomb ambushes in the near future.

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Stable Door

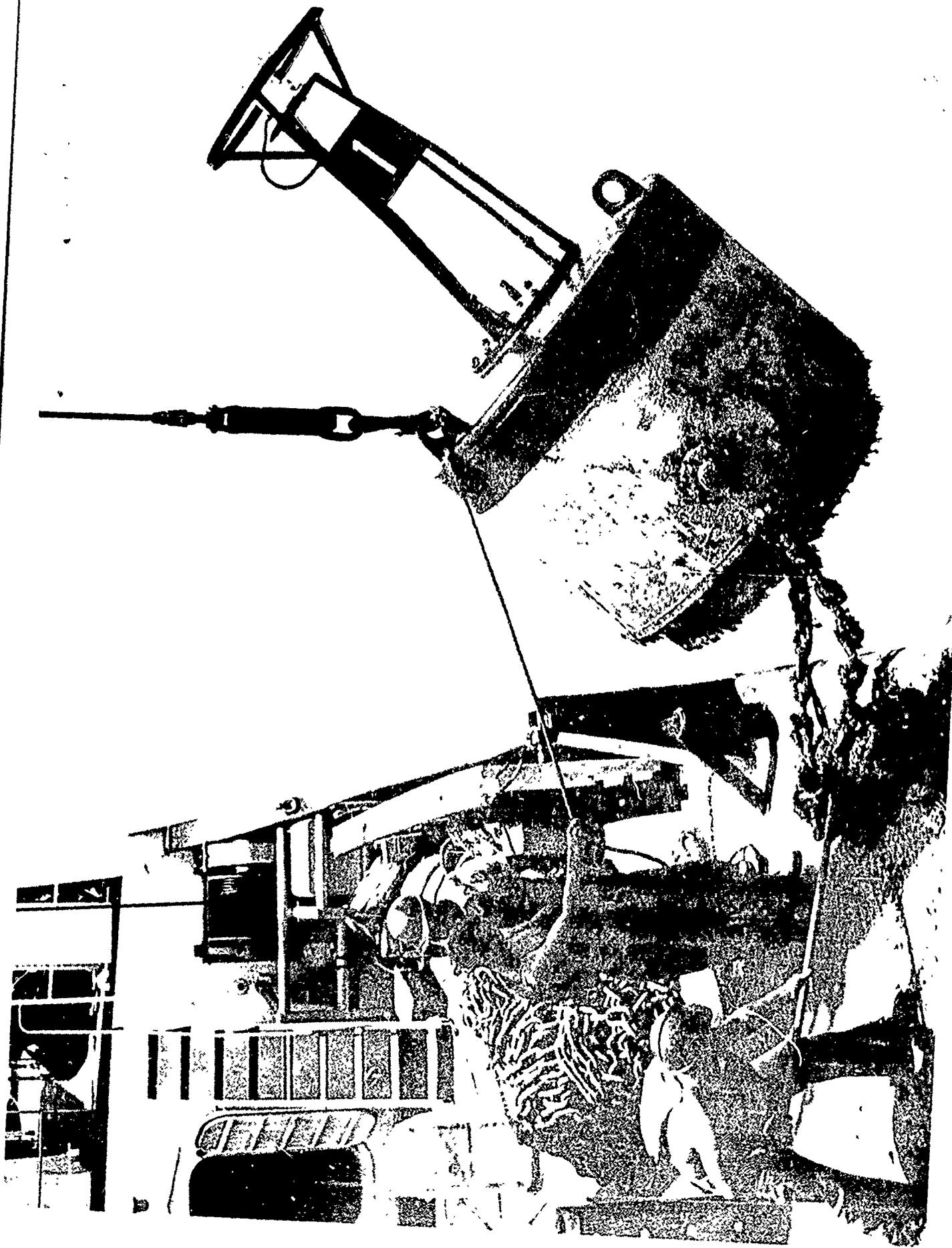
Stable Door forces detected a total of 31,254 watercraft in Vung Tau, Cam Ranh Bay, Qui Nhon, and Nha Trang Harbors during May. Of this total 3,640 were inspected and another 2,801 boarded. These patrols resulted in the detention of 203 craft and 188 persons for faulty or missing identification papers, possession of contraband, and restricted zone violations.

Unit ONE - Vung Tau

In the early morning hours of 19 May, Harbor Entrance Control Point (HECP) personnel observed the VNN LST 501 make a hard port turn while heading up the channel. The LST attempted to pass between two ships anchored in F-15 and F-16. LST 501 appeared to come very close to the SS THUNDERBIRD anchored in F-16. No report was received at the time and it was believed that a collision had been avoided. LST 501 proceeded to anchor in B-14. Approximately five and a half hours later, the HECP was informed by MSTIS Vung Tau that the LST had indeed struck SS THUNDERBIRD near the bow, causing a four foot square hole 12-15 feet above the waterline. The LST suffered extensive damage to her starboard side.

Unit TWO - Cam Ranh Bay

While conducting ship checks in the early morning hours of 1 May, the Cam Ranh Bay Stable Door EOD team discovered a 50-60 pound charge attached to the hull of the SS COWANESQUE. The EOD team attempted to



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alert someone on the ship with negative results. No sentries were seen at this, or any other time, on the COWANESQUE. The charge was removed from the hull but sank to the ocean floor in 120-130 feet of water as the EOD personnel were dragging it away from the COWANESQUE for disposal. The HECF was informed and personnel aboard the COWANESQUE were alerted to make preparations for getting underway. The ship was checked again and EOD team, along with Picket 04 and LCPL 23, made a thorough search of the area and the rest of the harbor for swimmers with negative results. The EOD team searched the area the following morning and found a 12 foot crater which could have been caused by the detonation of the charge. No other evidence of the charge was found.

Unit THREE - Qui Nhon

In the evening of 13 May, Boston Whaler 77, with GMGSN T. W. Oaks, USN, and Nguyen Hung Son, VNN, serving as the boat crew, was making a grenade run around the dredge NEW JERSEY in the inner Qui Nhon harbor when a wave caused GMGSN Oaks to slip, dropping a live grenade into the boat. Both crew members went over the side and escaped the grenade's blast which put a six inch diameter hole in the whaler's starboard side. The two crew members were picked up by the tug CYNTHIA which also recovered the Boston Whaler and secured it to the dredge.

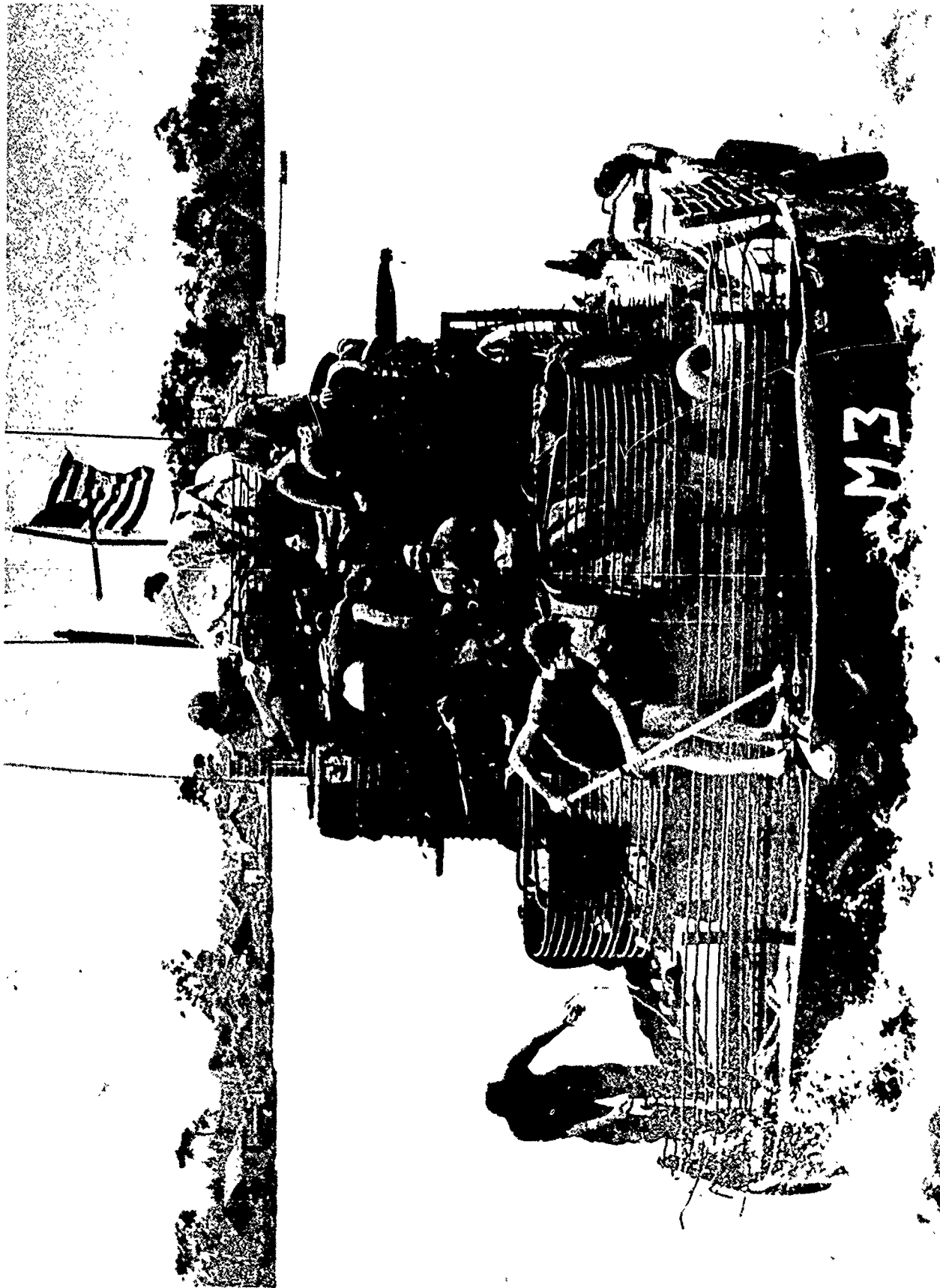
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Unit FOUR - Nha Trang

On 10 May the Stable Door EOD team received a request for assistance from MACV Advisory Team 46 with respect to suspected underwater explosive charges attached to the Xong Bong Bridge on Highway QL-1 (North) in the vicinity of CP 043 560. EOD personnel found the charge, which consisted of 180 pounds of foreign made plastic explosive, 150 pounds of TNT base powdered explosive, six charges bound together with detonator cord, and initiating devices (four CHICOM chemical ignitors, three quick destruct pull-friction ignitors, and two booby trap pull-friction ignitors) inside the charge. The charge was disassembled and taken to the Unit FOUR demolition range where it was destroyed.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE SUMMARY

There was no significant change in operations or the location of River Patrol Force units of TF 116 during the month of May.

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CTF Clearwater

The enemy activity in the CTF Clearwater Area of Operations (AO) during the month of May was considered to be moderate to low. There were two periods of relatively high activity on the nights of 30 April/1 May and on 7/8 May. No naval assets were damaged during these periods.

Mines, once again, presented the greatest threat to operations in this AO. During the month, there were nine mine incidents reported. This also was a decrease in activity from the previous month when 15 mine incidents were reported. The majority of all mine incidents occurred within the first six days of the month.

At 021430H May, Vietnamese children discovered a mine in the Cua Viet River, six kilometers southwest of the Clearwater Advanced Tactical Support Base (ATSB), and reported the fact to a patrol unit. Clearwater personnel arrived at the scene and identified the mine as an NVA pressure mine containing approximately 50 pounds of a CHICOM type charge. Clearwater ATSB personnel destroyed the mine in place.

On 4 May, MSM 12, while recovering its bottom trawl, discovered an NVA pressure mine with an estimated 50 pound CHICOM explosive charge in the trawl. The MSM was aground upon ebb tide. In order to preserve the safety of the craft, a three pound explosive charge was tied to a net adjacent to the pressure bladder of the mine, and the trawl and the mine were cut loose. The mine was destroyed with no material damage.

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On 18 May, a Vietnamese sampan, while recovering its nets about four kilometers southwest of the Clearwater ATSB, recovered an NVA pressure mine. The fishermen turned the mine over to a Coastal Group 11 junk.

On 21 May, in ceremonies conducted at Clearwater ATSB, LCDR George Fondren relieved LCDR W. D. Nicholson and assumed the duties as Commanding Officer Clearwater ATSB Cua Viet/CDR Dong Ha River Security Group.

Units assigned to CTF Clearwater conducted normal daily patrols and sweep operations during the month. Resupply units transited the rivers without incident.

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SEAL Operations in the Rung Sat Special Zone

SEAL Detachment ALPHA, 5th Platoon, Squads ALPHA and BRAVO, composing TU 116.9.5, operated throughout the RSSZ during the month of May. Although the SEALs conducted at least 32 operations during the month, the majority of these operations was relatively insignificant.

Two of the more significant SEAL operations are described below:

The first operation took place in Long An Province, approximately ten kilometers south of Nha Be. Both squads departed Nha Be by Slick at 201220H May and proceeded to XS 945 708 where ALPHA Squad inserted in order to check out POW intelligence. The POWs led the squad to several small cache sites in close proximity to the insertion site. BRAVO Squad then inserted by Slick to help secure the area. The caches contained 13 kilos of rice, 300 feet of iron wire, one demolition kit, one 155 mm artillery round, two 81 mm mortar rounds, three gallons of fish sauce, one AK-47 bullet mold, one butane torch, and assorted tools. All of the captured material was destroyed.

The second operation was conducted in the vicinity of XS 885 667, approximately 13 kilometers southwest of Nha Be. Acting on intelligence gathered by PRUs, the SEAL Squads departed Nha Be at 252500H and inserted by Slick. A guide led the way to a medical cache in the immediate vicinity of the insertion point. The guide then led the platoon to a cache of surgical instruments at XS 885 665. On extraction, the SEAL Squads retained samples of all the medical supplies but had to destroy much of the cache due to their inability to either salvage or carry out the remainder of the material.

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The cache consisted of 3,000 5 cc vials of assorted vitamins (B12, K, C), 100 5 cc vials of novocaine, 500 5 cc vials of quinoserm, 500 5 cc vials of sterile water, 15 thermometers, 7 hypo syringes, nine boxes of needles (12 to a box), two intravenous (IV) sets, one spigometer, one surgical kit, 16 hemostats, two needle holders, five sets of retractors, two scalpels, one box of suture needles, one airway, and assorted towel clamps and sponge holders.

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Rung Sat Special Zone Shipping Incidents

Two enemy attacks on shipping in the Long Tau Shipping Channel occurred during the month of May.

At 1030H on the 18th, the SS WINDSOR VICTORY transiting north on the Long Tau Shipping Channel reported receiving four rocket rounds from the bank at the intersection of the Nga Bay and the Dong Tranh Rivers (YS 100 645). The WINDSOR VICTORY took one hit in the port side galley area wounding one civilian slightly.

Regional Forces Company 783 on routine Long Tau security patrol heard the rocket rounds fired. Searching the area, the troops found rocket launching platforms at YS 108 627 approximately one kilometer south of the WINDSOR VICTORY's position when hit. At 1045H, LTJG Yates with two Seawolves placed air strikes in the area. At 1115H, two RS52 ASPB's with BMC Barnard in charge inserted troops from RF Company 875 to act as a blocking force for the other company. Ground sweep operations terminated at 1515H with no further results.

The second attack occurred 20 miles south of Nha Be when the USNS SUNSHINE STATE observed three rocket explosions in the air nearby at 0715H on the 28th. The SUNSHINE STATE was transiting north on the Long Tau Shipping Channel near the Long Vuong Canal (YS 084 618) when the attack was attempted. Suffering no casualties, the SUNSHINE STATE continued to its destination.

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LCDR Wolniewicz and LTJG Dowing in Seawolves, and LT Woodsworth in an OV-10 from Vung Tau provided overhead cover as Regional Forces Company 783 searched the firing area. The troops found the rocket launching platform near the Long Vuong Canal and destroyed them. No further enemy contact was made.

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP SUMMARYFleet Command

The month of May was a very active one for the ships of the Vietnamese Navy Fleet Command. Much of the increase in the tempo of activities was due to the expansion of operations into Cambodia. Fleet Command ships were engaged in river security and refugee evacuation operations in Operation Tran Hung Dao XI and also carried out the extension of Market Time patrols along the Cambodian coast. All this was in addition to their normal coastal patrols and naval gunfire support missions. Discussions of their roles in the two above-mentioned operations may be found in the sections of the summary dealing with those operations.

As of 31 May, the ships of the Fleet Command were deployed as follows: (All number/letter pairs refer to Market Time patrol areas).

<u>Ship</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Operation</u>
PGM 602	1A (1st CZ)	Market Time Patrol
PCE 10	2E	"
PGM 613	4C (2nd CZ)	"
PGM 610	4D	"
PGM 608/619	8D/E (4th CZ)	"
PGM 601/608	9C/D	"
PGM 617	9E	"
PGM 605	9L	"
LSSL 228	9M	"
PGM 612/PCE 12	9O	"
LSSL 229	Nam Can (4th RA)	NGFS
LSIL 327/300	Vinh Long	"
LSM(H) 401	Nam Can	PSYOPS
LSEL 225/226, LSIL 329, LSM 403/405, LSM(H) 400	Cambodia	THD XI

Coastal Zones

Activity in all the Coastal Zones, except the Fourth (because of its proximity to Cambodia), was comparatively light. However, the number of junks and people searched jumped significantly over the figures for April. During May, 85,261 junks and 287,401 people were searched by the Coastal Junks and Coastal Surveillance Forces, an increase over April of 18% in the number of junks and 12% in the number of people.

In this section, the activities of the junks of the Coastal Groups and the PCFs and WPBs of the Coastal Surveillance Forces will be discussed. They are dealt with in the same section because the two forces frequently conducted operations in concert with one another.

First Coastal Zone

During May, enemy activity in the First Coastal Zone was light except in the Hoi An area, the area of operations for CG 14. Elements of CG 14 conducted numerous sweep operations with various PCFs of VNN TG 213.1.

On 4 May, two units of CG 14, two PCFs, two PBRs, two KSBs, two RF Companies, CTF 194.1 personnel and UDT 11 personnel conducted a survey of a creek running between BT 190 578 and BT 170 568. Fire was received from an unknown sized enemy unit at BT 181 572 and four RFs were wounded. Fire was received again at BT 173 567, and during this action, one RF personnel stepped on a mine and was killed. All units had to be unloaded and walked out due to shallow water in the creek. Four sensors were implanted during the mission.

At 0815 on the morning of 15 May, a Yabuta junk of CG 14 detonated a mine of undetermined size at BT 137 537 while transporting an RF Company. Two of the embarked personnel were thrown overboard by the blast. One of them was recovered, but the other RF was not found and was presumed dead.

Second Coastal Zone

Units of TG 213.2 and coastal groups of the Second Coastal Zone carried out daily patrols, sweep operations, and psychological and civic action operations. Contact with the enemy was light and scattered with comparatively few major actions in most areas.

In spite of fairly light enemy activity elsewhere, a good deal of pressure was brought to bear on CG 23. Their base received a mortar attack on 8 May and again on 20 May when seven rounds landed near the base. In the attack on 8 May, the base received approximately 5-8 rounds of 82 mm mortar fire and adjacent housing of VNN dependents was also hit. Casualties among both base personnel and dependents were quite heavy with two Vietnamese Navy personnel and three dependents killed and eight U. S. Navy personnel and eight dependents wounded.

On 13 May, LT Fairchild, the Senior Advisor of CG 23, was seriously wounded while riding in an Army convoy that was on its way from Song Cau to Qui Nhon. The ambush was initiated by the detonation of five 105 mm rounds which had been set up like claymores along the road. LT Fairchild was medevaced to Qui Nhon and was reported in good condition.

As of 25 May, the units of the Coastal Groups of the Second Coastal Zone were employed as follows:

<u>Unit</u>	<u># of Junks Assigned</u>	<u>Type of Ops</u>
CG 23	10	Patrol, base defense
CG 25	8	Patrol, base defense
CG 26	8	Patrol, base defense
CG 27	8	Patrol, base defense, Special Ops
CG 28		Special Ops, base defense

Third Coastal Zone

Vietnamese Navy units in the Third Coastal Zone engaged in only a few significant actions during May. This was due in part to the fact that a number of units which normally operate in the waters of the Third Coastal Zone were temporarily reassigned to Cambodian operations on the Mekong River. The junk forces of the Coastal Groups continued to conduct many patrols and sweep operations, but contact with the enemy was infrequent.

The forces of the Third Coastal Zone Coastal Groups were employed as follows as of 29 May:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Number/Location</u>	<u>Type of Ops</u>
CG 33	4 - Song Cua Lon	TAD Sea Float
	2 - Rach Ong Ben	Coastal patrol
	2 - Rach Cua Lap	River patrol
	5 - Local	Base defense.

CG 34	3 - Song Ham Luong	Coastal patrol
	3 - Song Ham Luong	River patrol
	3 - Local	Base defense
CG 35	2 - Song Cua Lon	TAD Sea Float
	3 - Song Co Chien	Coastal patrol
	2 - Song Co Chien	River patrol
	2 - local	Base defense
CG 36	3 - Song Cua Lon	TAD Sea Float
	2 - Song Hau Giang	Coastal patrol
	2 - Song Hau Giang	River patrol
	2 - local	Base defense

Fourth Coastal Zone and Extended Market Time Operations

Due to events in Cambodia, there was a great deal of activity in the waters of the Fourth Coastal Zone and in adjoining Cambodian waters during the month of May. The advisory effort during these operations, especially in Cambodian waters, was limited due to obvious political considerations. The direct participation of USN units was almost nonexistent. Vietnamese units carried out the operations largely without even the help of American advisors and acquitted themselves well.

Market Time operations were extended along the Cambodian coast, with the approval and cooperation of the Cambodian government, around the middle of the month. Also at about this time, on May 17, an ARVN operation named Cuu Long II was launched into the region of Cambodia between the cities of Takeo and Kampot. As this area borders the sea, Vietnamese Naval units were able to provide support to elements of the 9th and 21st ARVN divisions during the course of the operation. It must be reemphasized that these operations were almost entirely Vietnamese with little or no American participation.

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VNN LSSL 228, PCE 12, CG junks, and TG 214.4 PCFs participated in these operations. American advisors rode these ships as long as they remained within certain limits, but when the ships went past these limits the advisors were disembarked. At no time did the number of American advisors in Cambodian waters exceed 20.

One of the most important parts of the May Cambodian operations was the evacuation of refugees to Vietnam. On 23 May, VNN PCFs evacuated 373 refugees from Kampot to Kech Tunsey Island and, the next day, to Ha Tien. On 26 May, 394 more refugees were evacuated to Rach Gia. Excellent cooperation was afforded the evacuations by Cambodian authorities.

At the end of the month, six VNN PCFs, 10 CG junks, VNN PCE-12, VNN HQ 455, an LCM-6, and an LCM-8 were operating in Cambodian waters with only four American advisors. No USN units were operating in Cambodian coastal waters.

As of 30 May the coastal groups of the Fourth Coastal Zone were employed as follows:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Number/ Location</u>	<u>Type of Ops</u>
CG 41	7 - Ha Tien 2 - 8 E/D	River patrol Patrol
CG 42	6 - Ha Tien 3 - Poulo Panjang 2 - 9 L 1 - An Thoi	River patrol Patrol Patrol Stand-down
CG 43	6 - Ha Tien 1 - An Thoi	River patrol Temp. detached

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CG 144

4 - Ha Tien
3 - Ha Tien
3 - An Thoi

River patrol
Stand-down
Security

River Patrol Groups

Although few contacts were made with the enemy by the VNN RPGs within the borders of RVN during May, there was a major jump in the level of the RPGs' activity caused by the expansion of Allied operations into Cambodia. RPGs 53, 54, & 56, on the Vam Co Dong, and RPG 55, on the Mekong, participated in Operation Tia Chop and Tran Hung Dao XI, respectively. The discussion of their roles in these operations can be found in sections on Giant Slingshot (214.1) and Tran Hung Dao XI.

Other RPGs in the Republic of Vietnam continued normal river denial operations. The VNN RPGs were deployed as follows during May:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Operation</u>
RPG 51	Cat Lai	Saigon-Dong Nai River Patrol
RPG 52	Phu Cuong	Tran Hung Dao V
RPG 53	Ben Luc and Ben Keo	Giant Slingshot
RPG 54	Tan An	Giant Slingshot
RPG 55	Chau Doc/Cambodia	THD I/THD XI
RPG 56	Vam Co Dong/Grand Canal	Tia Chop/Barrier Reef
RPG 57	Nha Be	Long Tau Patrol
RPG 58	Rach Gia	Search Turn

At the end of the month, the Vietnamese Navy was augmented by the formation of two RPGs: RPG 59 which was turned over at Tuyen Nhon on 30 May and RPG 60 which was turned over at Tan My and Hoi An on 31 May.

RAIDS

The RAID activity for the month was rather routine until 6 May, when all six RAID^s were deployed from their AOs to take part in the Cambodian operation. Until that time, RAIDs 72 and 73 patrolled the Song Ham Luong from XS 475 300 to XS 45 13 in support of the 10th Regiment, 7th ARVN Division. RAID 74 operated on the Rach Nga Ba Cai Tau in support of the 6th Battalion, VNM^C Brigade Alpha. Nothing out of the ordinary troop lifts and interdiction patrols took place, although BM2 Marvin Schlueter, USN, acting as an advisor to RAID 71 in the THD II AO, was commended for his quick response on 30 April. Operating on a Boston Whaler in conjunction with Ranger Team 17, E Company, 75th Infantry, at 1935H, Schlueter was in WEGP on the Vam Co Dong at XS 587 786 when he observed three heavily loaded sampans crossing the river from the west. He took the sampans under fire with an M-60 and then began to receive heavy A/W return fire from the west bank of the river. He held his position until the Army unit could fall back on the whaler. After recovering the Ranger Team, he extracted and made a firing run to the north, suppressing heavy enemy fire. Six enemy kills were confirmed and the capture of an M-2 carbine, medical supplies and numerous documents was accomplished.

River Assault Groups

During the month of May, the RAGs of the Vietnamese Navy continued to carry out river interdiction and amphibious assault operations. Contact with the enemy was light and scattered although RAGs 23 and 31 did participate in the expansion of Allied operations into Cambodia in Operation Tran Hung Dao XI.

During May, the VNN RAGs' advisors reported no significant operations involving combat with the enemy. The RAGs were deployed as follows:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Location</u>
RAG 21/33	Dong Tam
RAG 22	Ben Luc
RAG 23/31	Cambodia (THDXI)
RAG 24	Dau Tieng
RAG 25/29	Can Tho
RAG 26	Rach Gia
RAG 27	Nha Be
RAG 28	SW of Saigon
RAG 30	Phu Cuong
RAG 32	Hue
RAG 81	Cat Lai
RAG 91	Cat Lai

Tran Hung Dao I

Vietnamese manned units of Tran Hung Dao I, advised by U. S. Navy personnel, operated during May along the Bassac River and into Cambodia near Chau Doc. Initially, RAID 71 units entered Cambodia to establish a naval blockade extending 20 kilometers along the Bassac and to provide troop support near Ph Khpop (WT 065 145). RID 42 units entered Cambodia to establish a naval blockade along the Chau Doc River. MSF troops operated in conjunction with this probe, sweeping one kilometer deep on each side of the Chau Doc River. An unrelated water probe was made simultaneously by naval units along the Rach Binh Ghi.

On 21 May, RIVDIV 532 crossed the border with an element of RPG KSB and RAID 71 and explored 20 kilometers along the Takev River. A search of both river banks and villages along the way was conducted during two days of operations. RAID 71 units reported locating a cache of 21 Red Chinese grenades, one 60 mm mortar round and two coils of wire.

Initially, the Vietnamese CTU 194.8 and his U. S. advisor, LCDR Souval, established an advanced base at An Phu. With expanded operations and improved communications, the command base was relocated to YRBM-20 at Chau Doc.

On 9 May, Monitor 6 came under 75 mm recoilless rifle and automatic weapons attack while in a WBCP on the Rach Giang Thanh approximately 20 kilometers northeast of Ha Tien. The boat suppressed the fire with the assistance of Seawolves 308 and 326. While there were no friendly

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personnel casualties, the M-6 sustained AK-47 holes in the port side, and it was believed that a live 75 mm round was lodged in the styrofoam port side aft. The boat was unable to return to its station.

On 11 May, the stern sentry of the USS GARRETT CITY (LST 786) sighted bubbles approaching the ship. He threw six concussion grenades into the water, but the bubbles continued to close the ship. Four depth charges were then dropped, whereupon the bubbles ceased. EOD divers investigated with negative results.

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Tran Hung Dao II

LCDR Pham Van Tieu, VNN, former Deputy Commander of Giant Sling-shot, assumed full command of the operation, henceforth referred to as Tran Hung Dao II, in ceremonies at Ben Luc on 5 May 1970. The change of commanders produced no immediate alterations in operating methods, and Tran Hung Dao II units experienced approximately the same degree of activity as during the preceding month, engaging in 26 friendly-initiated firefights and 17 enemy-initiated ones (up from April's 12 and 18, respectively).

Like most other interdiction operations, the bulk of the working hours were spent waiting for an evasive enemy to appear, and the only event to break the tedium in June was the brief and rather unhappy foray into Cambodian territory in support of U. S. Army operations in the Fishhook. Units of RPGs 53, 54, and 56 entered Cambodia on the Vam Co Dong at 1300H, 5 May, and they commenced rotating WBGPs in support of the 25th ARVN Division. At 0745H, 7 May, RPG 56 units were proceeding out of Cambodia on the Vam Co Dong River, having spent an uneventful WBGp the night before, when they came under heavy automatic weapons and B-40 fire at WT 957 637. Seawolves, Army LHFTs, and Dustoff helos were called in, and strikes were placed in the immediate area from 0813H to 1030H. Caches were later found on both banks of the river at WT 925 635 containing five tons of rice, sewing machines, bicycles, 5,000 uniforms, two AK-47s, and one K-54. As many of the supplies as could be carried were returned to Ben Keo for examination; the rest were burned.

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The attack produced nine USN wounded, five of which were medevaced and four returned to duty. One VNN was killed and 15 were wounded. Nine of the PBRs received major battle damage. Nine dead VC were counted.

At 2230H, 9 May, all 214.1 units were ordered out of Cambodia by the 25th ARVN, and during their exit, two more USN casualties were incurred, one serious. At 2246H, RID 44 units received fire near WT 934 621 resulting in one VNN blown over the side of a boat and two USN wounded. One of them was BM2 Marvin D. Schlueter, whose courage under fire had earned him many medals as an advisor to RID 44. He received multiple frag wounds in the chest and abdomen and was medevaced. The ironic fact was that the fire from the bank was later discovered to have originated from U. S. Army units operating outside their prescribed AO and whose movement was interpreted by RID 44 riders as the enemy. One USA was killed and six wounded in the incident.

As of 1000H, 10 May, all RID 44 units had departed Cambodia and deployed to normal stations in the Tran Hung Dao II AO. The total results of the Cambodian expedition were as follows: two submachine guns, two cases of 51 cal. ammo, one case of AK-47 ammo, one case of grenades, and five B-40 rounds captured by RPGs 53, 54, 56, and RID 44; three tons of rice captured by RPG 53 and RID 44; 28 enemy killed, one POW, and one Chieu Hoi; 5,000 uniforms and one outboard motor captured by RPGs 53, 54, and 56. In addition to the relatively heavy activity near the Cambodian border, there were also minor skirmishes in other parts of the AO, and air strikes were often placed into known VC staging or rest areas. On the night of 22 May, PBRs from 214.1.6 came

under heavy A/W and B-40 fire 11 kilometers east of Tuyen Nhon. The patrol officer, LTJG Christopher F. Siller, USN, received an AK-47 round in the right frontal area of the head; he was medevaced. Artillery was requested and supplied by FSB GETTYSBURG. RF troops were also inserted, and though they discovered five fresh trails leading to a heavy treeline, no contact was made with the enemy.

Another engagement involving RF troops occurred just after midnight on 25 May at XS 775 700, six kilometers from Rach Kien. Seawolves were called in as well as Dustoff helos in order to medevac two wounded men; two of the RF troops had already been killed. After the air strikes were placed, the RF unit reported at least ten VC retreating north of the highway towards XS 775 710, but they were not overtaken. No return fire was received by the helicopters.

May was thus a typical month throughout the AO, with frequent brief engagements, extensive friendly retaliation, and largely unknown results. CTF 214 reported seven VC killed (BC), 11 prob, and 31 Hoi Chanh at the end of the month. Enemy river traffic detected was light, with only a handful of the combat incidents involving VC afloat: on three occasions, sampans were taken under fire.

At the end of the month, 214.1 assets were positioned as follows:

<u>T. U. Designator</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Group (10 boats)</u>
214.1.1	Ben Luc	RPG 53/RID 44
214.1.2	Tra Cu	PIVDIV 594
214.1.3	Go Dau Ha	RID 40
214.1.4	Ben Keo	RPG 53 (10 boats)/RAD 552
214.1.5	Tan An	RPG 54/RID 43
214.1.7	Moc Hca	RIVDIV 571

Tran Hung Dao V / Ready Deck Summary

The SEA LORDS component which experienced by far the least amount of action during May was TU 194.6, Tran Hung Dao V/Operation Ready Deck. Routine patrols by U. S./VNN encountered the enemy rarely as the Communists failed to apply much pressure in the regions immediately north of Saigon. This moderate sized unit had a May average of 28 operable boats of its 37 assigned craft. Ninety percent of these were normally used in nocturnal WBGPs. No enemy kills were reported, and U. S. Ready Deck units were involved in only two fire fights the entire month. There were two U. S. casualties in TU 194.6, but only one resulted from hostile fire. One man was injured when he set off a white phosphorus grenade, mistaking it for a smoke grenade.

PBR 33, manned by VNN personnel, was struck 1½ feet above the waterline on 8 May by a B-40 rocket while transiting to a WBGW along the Binh Duong. The American advisor, LTJG Thomas Goodfellow, received minor shrapnel wounds in the head and was quickly medevaced. Army artillery placed harassment and interdiction fire in the area until a Light Helicopter Fire Team (LHFT) arrived to make air strikes. The PBR, sustaining only moderate damage, was able to proceed to its assigned guardpost.

Another VNN manned PBR was not so fortunate. A group of four was proceeding to a WBGW on the Upper Saigon River, 28 kilometers northwest of Phu Cuong, on 11 May when the last boat in the column received two B-40 rockets and automatic weapons fire from the south bank.

The remaining units took the area under fire with unknown results. The rocket tore an 8 inch hole one foot above the waterline and knocked two radios and the radar out of commission. Four Vietnamese sailors were wounded, three seriously, and were immediately evacuated. Helicopters were not available to place the requested air strikes.

On 14 May, two Vietnamese manned PBRs were supporting a 12 man Regional Force on a search and destroy mission along the Thi Tinh River, 14 kilometers northwest of Phu Cuong. The troops spotted an individual on the bank of a small canal in a restricted area and took the area under fire. Within two minutes, two females were observed in the same location. They were ordered to surrender and taken to the Phu Cuong National Police as Viet Cong suspects.

Rung Sat Special Zone

Combined operations were continued in the Rung Sat Special Zone (RSSZ) during the month of May. Three such combined operations were conducted and were named Chuong Duong 19-70, Chuong Duong 20-70, and Chuong Duong 21-70.

Chuong Duong 19-70

Forces utilized during this operation were as follows: USN Light Helo Fire Team (LHFT), four VNN PBRs of RPG 51, one VN LCM, two VN RPCs, RAG 27, USA Slicks, USA Command and Control (C&C) aircraft, USA LHFT, Regional Force (RF) companies 121, 362, 601, 908, 999; USN OV-10 aircraft with RSSZ NGLO on board, USAF Forward Air Controllers (FAC), RSSZ EOD Team, and four USN ASPBs of TU 116.9.4. Navy and Marine advisors operated with the various Vietnamese units in order to assist in coordinating all activities.

During the operation, the RF companies made several troop insertions, both by helo and by boat, and made troop sweep through the designated operating areas. The operation commenced at 060500H and was completed at 071515H May. Friendly forces suffered no casualties during this operation, and enemy casualties are unknown. Two arms and ammunition caches were located during the troop sweeps. The EOD Team was inserted in each instance and destroyed the ammunition.

Chuong Duong 20-70

Chuong Duong 20-70 was conducted from 20 through 22 May with basically the same composition of forces. However, in this operation, there was more enemy activity. Friendly casualties were four RF troops killed, one USA and two RF troops wounded. Enemy casualties were 11 VC killed and one VC wounded. Enemy material captured and later destroyed included: two sampans, 11 bunkers, 2200 pounds of milled rice, 500 pounds of salt, 100 pounds of cement, eight 2.75 inch rocket motors, eight 75 mm recoilless rifle round fuses, and 15 pounds of clothing. Enemy material captured but retained by the RF troops included: one AK-47, two transistor radios, one wristwatch, one backpack, one blowtorch, and an unspecified amount of enemy documents and small arms ammunition.

Chuong Duong 21-70

The third and final combined operation for the month of May took place from 27 through 30 May. On the first day of the operation, 11 enemy troops were killed. Ten of these enemy troops were killed by the air assets taking part in the operation. The RF troops conducting ground sweeps accounted for the other enemy killed and captured an assortment of enemy documents while conducting numerous sweeps. There were no friendly casualties as a result of this operation.

During the month of May, the Provincial Reconnaissance Units continued their operations in the RSSZ. The most significant and successful operation was conducted by 37 PRUs on 6 May in the vicinity of XS 913

698, approximately 10 kilometers south of Nha Be. Initially, 18 PRUs inserted into the area by Slick. The PRUs swept northeast along the bank of the Soi Rap and discovered a small bunker and engaged and killed one VC. In continuing their sweep, the PRUs came under small arms fire from a bunker complex. An additional 19 PRUs were inserted by Slick. With USN LHFT providing overhead support, the PRUs captured the bunker complex and killed two additional VC.

A search of the bunker complex revealed that the bunkers were being used as a VC hospital. The PRUs captured one M-1 carbine, one 38 caliber automatic pistol, two small barrels of diesel oil, 500 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, assorted documents, 200 kilos of rice, and assorted medical supplies. The rice was destroyed in place.

Vietnamese Marine Corps

The Vietnamese Marine Corps began the month with routine operations in the 3rd and 4th Coastal Zones. Brigade Alpha with a task organization of the Second, Sixth, and Seventh Infantry Battalions and the First Artillery Battalion minus, conducted an RIF operation in Chuong Thien Province, producing no significant contacts. Brigade Bravo with the 1st, 4th, and 5th Infantry Battalions, 2nd Artillery Battalion minus, and Battery I, 3rd Artillery Battalion, conducted RIF operations in Dinh Tuong Province, producing no significant contacts.

During the second week, Brigade Bravo had shifted to Cambodian AOs. Under the OPCON of CTG 194.0, the 1st, 4th, and 5th Infantry and 2nd Artillery minus participated in Tran Hung Dao XI, conducting ground assaults along both banks of the Mekong near the Neak Luong Ferry Landing. On 14 May, the 5th Infantry made contact with an estimated NVA Battalion entrenched on Hill 147 (VIC WT 426 435). They ran into heavy automatic weapons, machine gun, and recoilless weapons fire at approximately 1650H, and the ensuing battle continued throughout the night. Supported by Black Ponies and Seawolves, they took their objective by 1730H, 15 May, killing 49 VC and capturing numerous weapons.

Elements of the 1st Infantry ambushed and killed eight VC on 17 May with no friendly casualties.

On 20 May, one company of the 4th Infantry conducted an airmobile operation and, again with air support, overran a VC battalion base camp by 1645H, 21 May, killing 33 VC and capturing two.

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Highway #1 was reopened through VNMC efforts, and security was provided for the Neak Luong Ferry Landing. Brigade Bravo was relieved by Brigade Alpha on 28 May, with the 2nd and 8th Infantry Battalions and the 2nd Artillery Battalion. The 2nd Infantry made contact later that day in Prey Veng, Cambodia, killing 15 VC and capturing six. One VNMC was killed, five injured.

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PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS AND CIVIC ACTION SUMMARY

During the month of May, CTF Clearwater personnel continued to conduct MEDCAPs using small units to visit several villages located near the Clearwater Advanced Tactical Support Base (ATSB). Thirteen villages were visited during the month, and 787 patients were treated. The medical problems most commonly encountered were eye infections, ear infections, and skin disorders. Other units of CTF Clearwater, in conjunction with their normal patrol duties, distributed Chieu Hoi and hygiene leaflets on a daily basis.

In the Rung Sat Special Zone, eight MEDCAP/DENTCAPs were conducted during the month of May. The medical and dental officers treated 1,006 villagers and distributed 295 Health Kits.

During the month, several air and waterborne psyops broadcasts were conducted in the RSSZ. The broadcasts were made in conjunction with operations in the area and warned the villagers of restricted areas. Leaflet drops were extensively conducted during the month. Over 458,000 Chieu Hoi, 252,000 Safe Conduct, and 290,500 leaflets about the government of Vietnam were distributed within the RSSZ.

In the Sea Float Area of Operations (AO), the VNN POLWAR Team and USN psyops personnel worked daily to aid in the construction of various projects. There was a significant increase in VC harassment about the middle of the month. The harassment was characterized by three kidnappings and the theft of over 20 sampans. The POLWAR and Psyops Teams countered this activity by trying to convince the people to continue to

support the government of Vietnam (GVN), report on the VC, and remain in the hamlet. Despite these efforts, several families left the area, and other families expressed a desire to relocate.

Adults and children alike, who previously exhibited a happy and carefree existence coupled with an unconditional acceptance of the team's presence, changed to an extremely reserved and apprehensive display when confronted. After about a week, the people started to verbalize some of their feelings, and the children began to renew their associations. With the continued presence of friendly troops, it is anticipated that the hamlet will regain its forward momentum that has been interrupted by the VC harassment.

Civic Action projects currently in progress or in the planning stages include one bridge, a market place, the completion of the Tran Hung Dao II school, clearing land, diking land, elevated walkways, and a bakery for the purpose of baking bread for the school children on a daily basis.

On 20 May, 1970, one room of the three room school at Tran Hung Dao II was officially opened with 125 children attending. Classes are split in two groups and taught daily, two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon, by POLWAR personnel.

During May, refugees began arriving in Vietnam from Cambodia. CTF 211 has assumed responsibility for the care of approximately 300 Cambodian refugees at the Dong Tam base. The refugees have been housed in barracks with adequate lighting, water, and sanitation facilities.

The refugees have been provided with medical care, food, clothing, blankets, psyops radio, baby formula, candy, dolls, vitamins, plastic bowls, and spoons. The morale of the refugees appears high.

ACCELERATED TURNOVER PROGRAM AND TRAINING SUMMARY

After one year and five months of successfully reducing enemy infiltration along the Vam Co Dong and Vam Co Tay Rivers, the joint U. S./Vietnamese operation Giant Slingshot came under Vietnamese operational control on 5 May 1970. CDR Arie C. A. Sigmond, USN, was relieved by LCDR Pham Van Tieu, VNN, who is the on-the-scene commander of the operation at Ben Luc while CDR Trinh Xuan Phong, VNN, took over as operational commander, with headquarters at Cat Lai.

So far as craft turnovers were concerned, administrative control of 30 river assault craft was shifted to RIDs 42 and 43 on 4 May. The two new RIDs were previously RAIDs 70 and 71, respectively, and their formation did not represent a shift from U. S. control. The more major turnover was that of 60 PBRs, for which the VNN assumed administrative control on 30 May, although the formal turnover ceremony will not occur until 30 June. The following are the new groups formed and those disbanded:

RIVDIV 515 (10 PBRs)	RPG 58	Rach Soi
RIVDIV 573 (10 PBRs)		
RIVDIV 551 (10 PBRs)	RPG 59	USS BENEWAH
RIVDIV 552 (10 PBRs)		Tuyen Nhon
RIVDIV 543 (10 PBRs)	RPG 60	Hoi An
RIVDIV 521 (10 PBRs)		Tan My

Also turned over in May was the 115 foot LCU 1494 at the U. S. Naval Support Activity, Danang. It was the 13th logistics craft turned over by NSAD in the past 11 months.

ACTOVLOG events for the month involved the commissioning of three combined commands at Qui Nhon (12 May), Cam Ranh Bay (13 May), and Nha Be (26 May), all with USN Commanders and VNN Deputy Commanders. Cam Ranh Bay and Nha Be will be "depot" level support bases and Qui Nhon, an "intermediate" level, depending on CRB for its logistics support. The month's commissionings brings to six the number of bases that are combined-manned. The Nha Be complex will eventually home RPGs 51, 52, and 57, and RAG 22, in addition to various support and logistics craft, and will support Cat Lai, Long Binh, Phu Cuong, Ben Luc, and Tran Hung Dao II ATSBs. Its afloat assets will operate primarily in the RSSZ and Ready Deck AOs. There are 1,150 dependent shelters scheduled for the 2,307 VNN personnel who will reside there.

The Cam Ranh Bay base will supply depot-level maintenance for 80 coastal surveillance craft (29 PCFs, 20 WPBs, 21 junks, and ten Coastal Raiders) and will homeport 12 PCFs and six WPBs (CTG 213.2). It will provide major upkeep for 144 boats in all, taking the various support craft into account, employing a total of 534 craft maintenance personnel. There are a total of 575 dependent shelters planned for the 698 afloat personnel and the 682 attached to the base itself.

Qui Nhon will have lesser upkeep capability, being a satellite of the larger CRB. It will provide depot-level maintenance for 21 junks and 20 Coastal Raiders and will be the homeport for CTG 213.2.1 (16 PCFs) and for CG 22 (21 junks). There will be 210 craft and 132 base maintenance personnel attached when the base is fully manned. Plans include 365 dependent shelters for the total 711 VNN people eventually to reside there.

As of 31 May, construction was in progress at 24 of the base sites requiring such prior to turnover.

The VNN Force Level increased by 1,241 in May for a total of 37,473; the ceiling of 39,611 is hoped for by the end of June. Recruiting continued at a satisfactory level although the paucity of petty officers remained a problem. In fact, in May, 1969, there were 4,785 petty officers in the VNN; by the end of May, 1970, there were 4,604. Presumably, some of the decrease could be attributed to those who became warrant officers and aspirants, but the fact remains that middle management is sorely lacking. In beginning attempts to rectify the problem, an unscheduled petty officer class of 220 students was convened in Saigon on 18 May. It is hoped that out of the personnel ceiling of 39,611, 13,800 will eventually be petty officers.

As for the Dependent Shelter and Animal Husbandry Programs, it is enough to say that the works of both man and nature proceeded at the expected rates in May. As of 26 May, 968 family units were complete with 1,162 under construction at 19 sites. The receipt of 5,200 hybrid broiler chicks and eight strapping breeding swine were imported from the Philippines on 25 May, increasing the food supplement program livestock population to 9,180 poultry, 116 swine, 186 ducks, 102 rabbits, and four goats. The total number of projects is 49 operated by 40 separate VNN units.

NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, SAIGON

Several Naval Support Activity, Saigon ships and craft served as integral components of the Cambodian river operation, entitled Tran Hung Dao ELEVEN, which commenced on 9 May. USS ASKARI (ARL-38), USS BENEWAH (APB-35), USS SATYR (ARL-23), and YRBM 16 were stationed at the Cambodian border at the commencement of operations and remained there at month's end. YFU 55, YFU 57, and LCU 1489 provided short hauls for vehicles and local resupply services in support of the operation. Most other resupply craft made extra runs also in support of the Navy's Cambodian ventures.

While U. S. Naval units in Cambodia ran into very light resistance, many of the Naval Support Activity, Saigon Detachments were being harassed by mortar attacks at various times during the month. Dong Tam was number one on the VC target list for the month as the detachment was hit by attacks on 3, 8, 17, 18, and 19 May. There were no U. S. Navy personnel casualties caused by these attacks although casualties were inflicted in the adjoining VN base. Material damage was negligible except for the attack of 19 May which disrupted communications.

Other mortar attacks were reported at Moc Hoa and Tan An on 3 May and Cat Lo on 13 May. No damage or casualties were incurred during these attacks. Two 155 mm rounds landed some 1500 yards from the Cat Lo detachment on 24 May, killing one VN civilian and wounding another. The Navymen were less than pleased when an investigation

discovered that the rounds had been fired by a U. S. Army artillery battery which had made a 160 degree error in plotting.

At month's end a total of 166 officers and 3,523 enlisted men (including NAVCATS) attached to the Naval Support Activity, Saigon and its detachments. Altogether, 10,271 sailors and 718 boats and craft were being supported by these units.

The workload at both TF 115 and 116 repair facilities continues to be extremely heavy due to battle damage on TF 115 PCFs and the increased tempo of operations and carelessness of PBR operators of TF 116 and 194 units. Operations from western advance bases are becoming difficult due to the monsoon season. Offshore assets in this area are being shifted ashore. The overall maintenance effectiveness, based on the average number of craft operationally ready during the month, can be broken down as follows:

Mobile Riverine Force - 96%

PCFs - 95%

PBRs - 98%

On 26 May the Naval Support Activity Detachment at Nha Be became a combined command with a USN CO and a VNN Deputy.

NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, DANANG

The phase out of Naval Support Activity, Danang functions continued on schedule during the month of May. On 1 May, the ferry landing ramp at Danang was transferred to U. S. Army control. The Army also assumed control of the China Beach R&R Center (5 May) and the Chu Lai dial telephone exchange (15 May). The Naval Support Activity, Danang Hospital closed its doors on 15 May after four years of medical service. Over 67,000 patients had been admitted to the hospital since 1966. A 24 bed dispensary became operational at Camp Tien Sha on 12 May. In the area of public works, Project MOOD (Move Out of Danang) is 90% complete for Navy facilities.

With the inactivation of the Naval hospital and the turnover of other Naval activities in Danang, the number of U. S. Navy personnel continued to decline in May. At month's end there were a total of 242 officers and 6,040 enlisted men on board. The average of military personnel supported by the Naval Support Activity, Danang also declined to a figure of 140,281.

Cargo operations at Danang continued at a normal rate throughout May. The summary of port operations for May follows:

	<u>Offload</u>		<u>Backload</u>		<u>Thruput</u>	
	<u>S/T</u>	<u>M/T</u>	<u>S/T</u>	<u>M/T</u>	<u>S/T</u>	<u>M/T</u>
Danang	117,478	189,515	82,086	145,567	199,564	335,082
Chu Lai	24,055	36,208	8,538	22,963	32,593	59,171

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On 2 May, YFU 81 received a B-40 rocket hit on her starboard side aft as she was rounding Hon Son Chan Island (BT 035 986). The YFU took immediate evasive action. Damage was light and no personnel casualties were inflicted.

USS BOLSTER (ARS-38) commenced a salvage operation at Chu Lai on 2 May to recover 6,100 feet of eight inch POL (Petroleum, Oil, Lubricant) line which had been carried away during rough weather on 13 April. The operation was successfully completed on 9 May.

On the morning of 5 May, the Naval Support Activity Detachment at Chu Lai was the unhappy recipient of a 15 round mortar or rocket attack. The attack, which lasted only five minutes, fortunately caused no personnel casualties and insignificant material damage.

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THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

During May, as in past months, all significant tactical incidents involving Seabees took place in the southern I Corps Tactical Zone. Mining incidents in this area have hindered construction efforts along Routes LTL-4 and QL-1D and have resulted in equipment damage to a bulldozer, two scrapers, a TS-24, and a five ton truck. Relatively minor injuries were inflicted upon the operators of this equipment. On 1 May, BU3 Carl Dee Wooten, a member of an NMCB One Twenty-One water system installation squad at Thuang Duc, was killed by enemy mortar fire. Another Seabee, BU2 Stephen Lynn Frazier, was wounded in the same attack. Chu Lai combat base received approximately 230 incoming rockets on 4 and 5 May with 11 landing in Camp Shields of NMCB Seven. The rockets caused minor damage to the Seabee camp and inflicted one minor personnel casualty. Altogether, one Seabee was killed and nine others were wounded in the Republic of Vietnam in May.

Construction continued without complication on the Quang Tri highway bridge on Route QL-1. The 901 foot two-lane highway bridge was 36 percent complete by month's end. The patching and overlay of taxiways at Phu Bai Airfield continued throughout May with a completion date of 28 June scheduled for the project. The third of four secondary bridges north of Hue is now complete. Construction of the fourth bridge has begun, but difficulties encountered in pile driving have pushed the completion date back to 1 July vice 1 June. The Hue detention facility is now 87 percent complete.

Work on ACTOV bases in III and IV Corps Tactical Zones continued at Ha Tien, Long Phu, Kien An, Nam Can, and Rach Soi. Work at Ha Tien is complete with materials now being staged for the VN dependent shelters at that site. Rach Soi construction is 71 percent complete while extensive fill work continues at Nam Can. Construction at Long Phu and Kien An has commenced and both were 11 percent complete by the end of May. Work at Thuan An, the one ACTOV base assigned to Seabees in the I Corps Tactical Zone, is progressing well and stands at 17 percent complete.

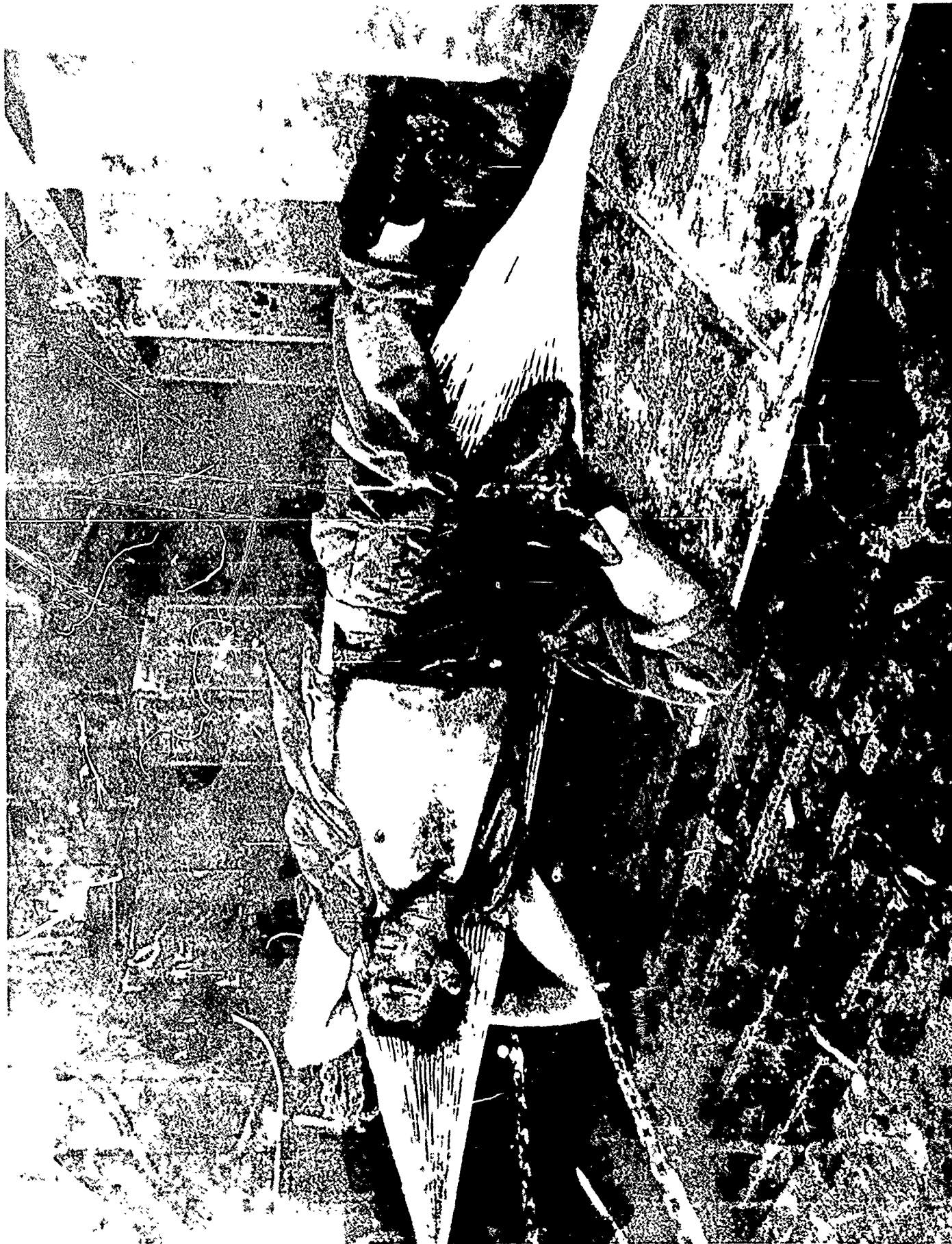
The major effort in the line of communication (LOC) road upgrade program continued to be directed toward Route QL-1 south of Danang between the villages of Thanh Quit and Tu My. The upgrade of Route LTL-4 between Routes QL-1 and ML-1D was also started during the month. The application of a second lift of asphaltic concrete plus extensive drainage rework of QL-1 through the Hai Van Pass also continued on schedule.

The aircraft shelter construction program was completed in May with the exception of eight shelters for FASU, Danang Air Base, which are now under procurement and are scheduled for construction in September and October of this year.

Naval construction forces have a total projected backlog in I Corps amounting to 20 weeks of horizontal work and 10 weeks of vertical work. In III and IV Corps, the projected backlog for present Seabee assets is 60 weeks of vertical work with adequate horizontal support

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for the vertical effort. There were a total of 3,783 Seabees (137 officers, 3,646 enlisted) in country as of 31 May. Seabees received a total of four Bronze Stars, 20 Navy Commendation Medals, 33 Navy Achievement Medals, 142 Combat Action Ribbons, and Nine Purple Hearts during May.



APPENDIX I
GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations and terms are commonly used in the combat zone by all agencies and are listed here in amplification of those used in the text:

ABF	Attack by fire
AMMI PONTCON	A multi-purpose barge, standard size is twenty-eight feet by ninety feet
AO	Area of operations
ARVN	Army of the Republic of Vietnam
ASPB	Assault Support Patrol Boat
ATC	Armored Troop Carrier
ATSB	Advance Tactical Support Base
A/W	Automatic weapons
BLACK PONY/BRONCO	OV-10 Twin Engine Turboprop Counterinsurgency Aircraft
CCB	Command and Communications Boat
CG	Coastal Group
CHICOM	Chinese Communist
CIDG	Civilian Irregular Defense Group- mercenaries of Vietnamese, Laotian, Cambodian descent who fight primarily around their own villages
CMD	Capital Military District
CONUS	Continental United States
CRIP	Civilian Reconnaissance Intelligence Platoon

CS	Tear gas grenades
CTZ	Corps Tactical Zone
CZ	Coastal Zone
DELTA HAWK	Mohawk OV-10 aircraft
DUSTOFF	Medical evacuation by helicopter
ENIFF	Enemy initiated firefight
FOB	Forward Observation Base
FSB	Fire Support Base
FWMAF	Free World Military Assistance Forces
GDA	Gun Damage Assessment
GVN	Government of Vietnam
HAFT	Helicopter Attack Fire Team
H&I	Harassment and Interdiction Fire Support
JGS	Joint General Staff (Vietnamese)
KIT CARSON SCOUTS	Former Viet Cong who have come over to the side of the Saigon government and serve with allied military units
LAFT	Light Attack Fire Team (OV-10's)
LAW	Light Anti-tank Weapon
LCPL	Landing Craft, Personnel, Large
LDNN	Vietnamese equivalent of USN Underwater Demolition Team
LHFT	Light Helo Fire Team
LOH	OH-6 Light Observation Helicopter
LRRP	Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol

MACV	Military Assistance Command, Vietnam
MATSB	Mobile Advance Tactical Support Base
MEDCAP	Medical Civic Action Program
MONITOR	Heavily armored LCM-6 (40mm cannon or 105mm Howitzer)
MRB	Mobile Riverine Base
MRF	Mobile Riverine Force
MSB	Minesweeper, Boat
MSD	Minesweeper, Drone
MSF	Mobile Strike Force - mercenaries who deploy and go anywhere
NGFS	Naval Gunfire Support
NILO	Naval Intelligence Liaison Officer
NIOTC	Naval Inshore Operations Training Center
NOD	Night Observation Device
NVA	North Vietnamese Army
OINC	Officer in Charge
OJT	On the Job Training
PBR	Patrol Boat, River
PCF	Patrol Craft, Fast (Swift Boat)
POW	Prisoner of War
PRU	Provincial Reconnaissance unit
PSA	Province Sector Advisor
Psyops	Psychological Operations
RAD	River Assault Division
RAG	River Assault Group (VNN)

RAID	River Assault and Interdiction Division (VNN)
RAS	River Assault Squadron
RF/PF	Regional Forces/Popular Forces
RPG	Rocket Propelled Grenade or River Patrol Group
RSSZ	Rung Sat Special Zone
RVNAF	Republic of Vietnam Air Force (or Armed Forces)
SAR	Search and Rescue
SEAWOLF	UH-1B Helo, heavily armed, USN operated
SHADOW	C-119 aircraft
SKIMMER	20' fiberglass motor boat
SLICK	UH-1B Helo, USA operated
SPOOKY	C-47 aircraft
SSB	Swimmer Support Boat (skimmer)
STAB	Strike Assault Boat
SCATTOR	Small Craft Asset, Training, and Turnover
SHOTGUN 49	Call sign for Army O1A aircraft
START	Swift Training and Rapid Turnover
TAOR	Tactical Area of Responsibility
USARV	United States Army, Vietnam
VNMC	Vietnamese Marine Corps
VNN	Vietnamese Navy
ZIPPO	Flame thrower equipped ATC or Monitor
RAP	Rocket Assisted Projectile

APPENDIX IICOMNAVFORV/CHNAVADVGRP TASK AND ADVISORY ORGANIZATIONTASK FORCE 115

CTF 115/213	Coastal Surveillance Force	CDR T. Mullane
CTG 115/213.1	Northern Surveillance Group MSC/MSO/WPB/PCF/PG Assigned	VNN Com 1st CZ HQ ashore Danang
CTU 115.1.0	Sea Tiger Cau Dai River	As assigned
CTU 115.2	Central Surveillance Group	CDR J. L. Marriott, USN Com and 2nd CZ advisor HQ ashore Nha Trang
CTU 115.2.1	North Central Surveillance Unit	LCDR H. T. Truat VNN Qui Nhon CSC Officer
CTU 115.2.2	South Central Surveillance Unit	CDR J. L. Marriott USN Com and 2nd CZ advisor
CTE 115.2.2.1	Unassigned	
CTE 115.2.2.2	Unassigned	
CTE 115.2.2.3	SOCEN inshore Reaction Element WPB/PCF	CDR J. L. Marriott USN Com and 2nd CZ advisor
CTE 115.2.2.4	Unassigned	
CTE 115.2.2.5	Unassigned	
CTE 115.2.2.6	Unassigned	
CTE 115.2.2.7	SOCEN Support Element COSDIV 14	Unassigned
CTE 115.2.2.8	Unassigned	
CTE 115.2.2.9	Unassigned	
CTU 115.3	Southern Surveillance Group D WPB/PCF	CDR K. P. Hughes USN Com and 3rd CZ advisor
CTU 115.3.4	Unassigned	
CTU 115.3.5	Unassigned	
CTU 115.3.6	Southern WPB Support Unit COGARDIV 13	LCDR D. P. Gattor USCG Com Coast Guard Div 13

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CTU 115.3.7	Southern PCF Support Unit COSDIV 13	LCDR R. R. McConville Com Coastal Div 13
CTU 115.3.9	Southern Oper Support Unit	Senior CO/OIC
CTU 115.3.8	CON SON Radar Surveillance	Unassigned
CTU 115.3.3.1	SEAL TM 1 DET GOLF CHARLIE Platoon	LT T. L. Boyhan USN
CTF 115.4	Gulf of Thailand Surv Group	CDR Kiem VNN
CTF 115.5	Unassigned	
CTF 115.6	Gulf of Thailand Offshore	CO WHEC Assigned area #8
CTF 115.6	Market Time Reaction Group	CTF 115 Ashore Cam Ranh Bay
CTU 115.6.1	M/T Offshore Reaction Unit #1	SR. CO Offshore Pat Area #1
CTE 115.6.1.1	Northern DMZ Barrier Pat Element	CO Patrol Unit
CTU 115.6.2	M/T Offshore React Unit TWO	SR. CO Offshore PA #2
CTU 115.6.3	M/T Offshore React Unit THREE	SR. CO Offshore PA #3
CTU 115.6.4	M/T Offshore React Unit FOUR	SR. CO Offshore PA #4
CTU 115.6.5	M/T Offshore React Unit FIVE	SR. CO Offshore PA #5
CTU 115.6.6	M/T Offshore React Unit SIX	SR. CO Offshore PA #6
CTU 115.6.7	M/T Offshore React Unit SEVEN	SR. CO Offshore PA #7
CTF 115	Coastal Surveillance Force	CDR T. Mullane USN
CTU 115.6.8	M/T Offshore React Unit EIGHT	SR. CO Offshore PA #8
CTU 115.6.9	M/T Offshore React Unit NINE	SR. CO Offshore PA #9
CTG 115.7	Sea Float Com/Gulf of Thailand	-D- CDR R. W. Curran USN
CTU 115.7.0	Sea Float/SEALORDS Log Support Unit	- As assigned
CTU 115.7.1	Sea Float/SEALORDS Operations Planning Unit	As assigned
CTE 115.7.1.2	Sea Float/SEALORDS Waterborne Units	Senior OINC PCF Assigned
CTU 115.7.2	Sea Float Base Defense Unit	As assigned

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CTE 115.7.2.1	Sea Float EOD/UDT DET	As assigned
CTE 115.7.2.2	VNN Sea Float Log Support	Senior VNN CO
CTU 115.7.3	Sea Float NGFS Unit	CO. PG assigned
CTU 115.7.4	Sea Float Ground Sec Unit	US Advisors as assigned
CTU 115.7.5	Sea Float VNN PCLWAR Unit	As assigned
CTU 115.7.6	Sea Float Spec Ops Advisor	LT D. G. Wilbourne USN OINC SEAL DET GOLF
CTU 115.7.7	Sea Float/Gulf of Thailand SEALORDS Support Unit	LCDR W. Martin USN Com COSDIV 11
CTU 115.7.8	Sea Float Air React Unit	As assigned/Seawolves
CTU 115.7.9	Sea Float/Gulf of Thailand/SEA LORDS Air Recon Unit	As assigned
CTF 115.8	Oper Readiness Group	CDR T. Mullane USN
CTU 115.8.1	WPB Oper Readiness Unit	CAPT D. E. Perkins USCG Com and COMCDFARDRON ONE
CTU 115.8.2	PCF Oper Readiness Unit	CDR L. R. Jefferis USN Com and COMCOSRON ONE
CTU 115.8.3	Harbor Defense Readiness Unit	CDR G. H. Overstreet USN Com and OINC IUWG ONE WESTPAC
CTU 115.8.4.	PG Operational Readiness Unit	LCDR J. R. Swain USN COMCOSDIV THREE-TWO
CTU 115.9	Harbor Defense GRP	CDR G. H. Overstreet USN Com and OINC IUWG ONE WESTPAC
CTU 115.9.1	Harbor Dep Unit Vung Tau	LCDR H. Woodruff USN OINC Harbor Def Unit Vung Tau
CTU 115.9.2	Harbor Defense Unit Cam Ranh Bay	LCDR W. B. Dyer USN OINC Harbor Defense Unit
CTU 115.9.3	Harbor Def Unit Qui Nhon	LCDR H. L. Barnes USN OINC Harbor Def Qui Nhon
CTU 115.9.4	Harbor Def Unit Nha Trang	LCDR W. G. Murphy USN OINC Harbor Def Nha Trang

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CTE 115.7.6.1	Spec Op Group ONE	LTJG W. H. Ward USNR OIC SEAL DET GOLF ECHOPlat
CTE 115.7.6.2	Spec Op Group TWO	LT F. G. Winant JSN SEAL TM 1 FOXTROT Plat Det G
CTE 115.7.6.3	Spec Op Support Unit ONE	LTJG G. M. Fulkerson USNR OINC TWO DET CHARLIE
CTE 115.7.6.4	Spec Io Support Group TWO	LTJG S. G. Smith USN OINC MST TWO DET BRAVO
CTE 115.7.6.5	UDT 11 Det GOLF	LTJG J. E. Klinger USNR

TASK FORCE 116

CTF 116	River Patrol Force Binh Thuy	CAPT J. R. Faulk USN Deputy 1st SEALORDS COMRIVPATFOR/COMRIVPATFLOT 5
CTG 116.1	Bassac RIVPATGRP Binh Thuy	LCDR R.R. Lepak USN COMRIVDIV 535
CTG 116.9	COMRSSZRIVPATGRU/RSSZ SA	CDR J. C. Williams USN Nha Be
CTU 116.9.2	Mine Division 112 Nha Be	LTJG R. G. Ruppert USN
CTU 116.9.4	RSSZ RAC Element Nha Be	CO RAC Unit assigned RAD 153 ASPB RAD 152 Zippo
CTU 116.9.5	SEAL TM 2 Det A 5th Platoon	LT M. J. Jukoski
CTU 116.9.6	SEAL TM 2 Det A 4th Platoon	LT W. E. Gardner USN
UNASSIGNED	Spec Op Support MST 2 Det D	ENS J. B. Marsh USNR
CTU 116.9.8	RSSZ Helo Unit ALPHA	CDR M. A. Artuso USN OINC HAL-3 DET-2

TASK GROUP 194.0

CTG 194.0	1st SEALORDS Commander Binh Thuy	RADM H. S. Matthews USN Com 1st SEALORDS/NAVLE DMAC, Deputy COMNAVFORV
CTU 194.0.3	Helio Support Grp Binh Thuy	CAPT M. J. Twite, Jr. USN

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CTU 194.0.4	VAL-4 Binh Thuy	CDR V. W. Klien USN
CTE 194.0.4.1	VAL-4 Det BRAVO Vung Tau	LCDR W. L. Dobbs USN

TASK GROUP 194.1

CTG 194.1	Crusades Commander	CAPT J. R. Faulk USN COMRIVPATFOR/COMRIVPATFLOT 5
CTU 194.1.0	Deputy Crusades Commander Saigon	CDR D. C. Dennison USN
CTU 194.1.2	Breezy Cove Crusades Commander	LTJG R. H. Martin USNR
CTU 194.1.3	Barrier Reef Cen Crusades Com	LTJG R. E. Dower USNR
CTE 194.1.3.1	Moc Hoa Crusades Commander	
CTU 194.1.4	Barrier Reef West Crusades Com	LTJG D. A. Barre USN OIC Monitor Team 7
CTU 194.1.5	TF 115 Crusades Commander	CDR T. F. Mullane USN COMCOSURVFOR
CTE 194.1.5.1	CUA DAI Crusades Commander	LTJG G. L. Gatlett USNR
CTU 194.1.6	Vinh Te Crusades Com YREM-20	LTJG M. L. Frey USN OIC TF 116 Monitor Tm ONE
CTU 194.1.7	Sea Float Crusades Commander	LTJG. A. D. Denmark USN OIC Monitor Team FIVE
CTU 194.1.8	Barrier Reef East Crusades Com	LT J. R. Levinson USN
CTU 194.1.9	Giant Slingshot Crusades Com	LTJG A. J. Principi USN

TASK GROUP 194.2

CTG 194.2	Breezy Cove Group Commander	* LCDR J. E. Roper USN
CTU 194.2.1	River Patrol Unit Alpha	* LCDR J. E. Roper USN COMRIVDIV 572
CTU 194.2.2	River Patrol Unit Bravo	LT E. E. McNeely USN COMRIVDIV 554

* LCDR J. E. Roper CTG 194.2 is designated point of contact for matters concerning combined manning, operations, communications, and dufflebag turnover at Song Ong Doc.

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CTU 194.2.3	Patrol Unit RAC CHARLIE	LT P. R. Rogers OIC RAD 131
CTU 194.2.4	LST Support Unit HARNETT CTY	LT. F. M. Kirk USN CO USS HARNETT CTY
CTU 194.2.5	Helo Support Unit HAL-3 DET-6	LCDR J. M. Peeples USN
CTU 194.2.6	Spec Warfare Unit Ca Mau	LT D. H. Boink USNR SEAL TEAM 2 Det Alpha 6th Plat
CTE 194.2.6.1	Spec Ops Support Element	ENS T. J. McChesney USNR OIC MST-2 DET FOXTROT

TASK GROUP 194.3

CTG 194.3	Search Turn Interdiction Group Commander Rach Gia	LCDR J. T. Hock USN
CTU 194.3.1	PBR Patrol Unit Kien Son	LR G. N. Fischen USN COMRIVDIV 553
CTU 194.3.2	PBR Patrol Unit Rach Gia	
CTU 194.3.3	Helo Support Unit	LCDR W. B. Lester, Jr. USN OIC HAL-3 Det-8
CTU 194.3.6	Spec Warfare Support Unit	LT J. B. Shortt USN SEAL TM 1 DELTA PLT DET GOLF
CTE 194.3.6.1	Spec Warfare Support Element Alpha	LT J. B. Shortt USN SEAL TM 1 DET GOLF DELTA Platoon Alpha Squad
CTE 194.3.6.2	Spec Warfare Support Element Bravo	LT Hetzer USN SEAL TM 1 DET GOLF DELTA Platoon BRAVO Squad

TASK GROUP 194.4

CTG 194.4	CDR Border Interdiction Group	LCDR P. T. Souval USN
CTU 194.4.1	Vacant	
CTU 194.4.2	Vacant	
CTU 194.4.3	Vacant	

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CTU 194.4.4	EODMUPAC TM 39 YRBM 21	LTJG B. A. G. Fuller USN
CTU 194.4.5	Commander Barrier Reef	LCDR J. K. Ferguson USN
CTE 194.4.5.1	Com Barrier Reef West Sector RIVDIV 593 STABRON-20 RPG-56	LCDR Nhon VNN LT A. F. Deroco USN LCDR J. K. Ferguson USN LCDR Nhon VNN
CTE 194.4.5.2	Com Barrier Reef Cen Sector RAD 131 RAD 132	LT D. A. McMullen Senior Boat Captain LT D. A. McMullen
CTE 194.4.5.3	Com Barrier Reef East Sector RPG 59	LT Hoa VNN SA RPG 59
CTU 194.4.6	Helo Support Unit YRBM-21	LT T. L. Campbell USN OIC HAL-3 DET-9

TASK GROUP 194.5

CTG 194.5	Delta Major River Incursion Group Cam Ranh Bay	CDR T. Mullane
CTG 194.5	Deputy Commander Delta Major Incursion Group Cam Ranh Bay	CDR Chi VNN
CTU 194.5.0	Delta Major River Incursion Unit Cat Lo	CDR L. R. Jeffries USN COMCOSRON ONE CSC
CTU 194.5.0	Deputy Commander Delta Major Incursion Unit Cat Lo	CDR Trang VNN
CTU 194.5.1	Upper Bassac-Mekong River- Cambodian Border Patrol Unit	LTJG R. P. Harmon USN
CTE 194.5.1	Upper Mekong River Patrol Element Chau Doc	OIC Senior PCF
CTE 194.5.1.2	Upper Bassac River Patrol Element Chau Doc	OIC Senior PCF
CTE 194.5.1.3	Cambodian Border River Patrol Element Chau Doc	OIC Senior PCF
CTE 194.5.1.4	Unassigned	
CTE 194.5.1.5	Special Warfare Element Chau Doc	OIC SEAL DET - as assigned

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CTE 194.5.1.6	Mobile Support Element Chau Doc	OIC MST TWO - as assigned
CTU 194.5.2	Football Island Incursion and Sa Dec Maritime Surveillance Unit Sa Dec	LCDR Sullivan USN
CTE 194.5.2.1	PCF Raider Element Sa Dec	OIC Senior PCF
CTE 194.5.2.2	Unassigned	
CTE 194.5.2.3	Special Warfare Element SEAL TM 1 HOTEL Platoon	LT Todd
CTE 194.5.2.6	Mobile Support Element MST TWO DET ALPHA	LTJG Stinson USN
CTU 194.5.3	Lower Cua Dai, Ham Co Chien and Hau Giang River Incursion Unit	CO Senior WPF
CTE 194.5.3.1	PCF Raider Element Long Phu	OIC Senior PCF
CTE 194.5.3.2	Unassigned	
CTE 194.5.3.3	Spec Warfare Element Long Phu SEAL TM 1 CHARLIE Platoon	LT T. L. Boyhan USN
CTE a94.5.3.6	Mobile Support Element MST 2 Det GOLF	LTJG Hendrickson USN
CTU a94.5.4	Coastal Intelligence Collection Unit Vung Tau	LCDR Graf 3rd CZ 10
CTU a94.5.5	Riverine Intelligence Collection Unit Can Tho	LCDR Schellhase 4th Riv 10

TASK GROUP 215.1/194.6

CTG 215.1	Upper Saigon Interdiction Group Commander Phu Cuong	CDR Hieu VNN CO RAG 24
CTU 215.1.0	Upper Saigon River Patrol Unit	CO RPG 52
CTU 215.1.1	Upper Saigon River Patrol Unit	CDR Hieu VNN

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TASK GROUP 194.8

CTG 194.8	CDR Tran Hung Dao I YRBM 20 Senior Advisor	LCDR Giang VNN LCDR P. T. Souval USN
CTU 194.8.0	Tran Hung Dao I Deputy CDR	LCDR J. B. Bishop USN
CTU 194.8.1	Tran Hung Dao I West Sector Senior Advisor COSGRU 41/42/43/44 Ha Tien RIVDIV 513 COSDIV 11 RAD 151	LCDR Que VNN LT W. H. Graham USN LT Lo VNN LT W. H. Graham USN SENIOR OIC Boat Captain
CTU 194.8.2	Tran Hung Dao 1 Central Sector Vinh Gia	OIC as assigned
CTU 194.8.3	Tran Hung Dao 1 East Sector RPG 55 RIVDIV 532 RPG-KS3	LCDR Trdeu VNN LCDR Trdeu VNN LCDR J. B. Bishop USN LT Lo VNN
CTU 194.8.4	CDR Ha Tien Support GARRETT CTY	LCDR J. W. Brown USN
CTU 194.8.5	Com Helo Support Unit	CDR R. C. Strange USN
CTE 194.8.5.1	Com Interdiction Helo Sup Ele	LCDR D. B. Lee USN
CTE 194.8.5.2	Com Interdiction Helo Sup Ele	CDR R. C. Strange USN

TASK GROUP 214

CTG 214.1	Interdiction Force Comm Senior Advisor	CDR Trinh Xuan Phuong VNN CDR A. C. Sigmond USN
CTU 214.1.1	On scene Com Ber. Luc PBR Element Senior Advisor	LCDR Pham Van Tieu COMRIVPATGRP 53 LTJG Barnhurst USN
CTU 214.1.2	Tra Cu Interdiction Unit	LT Hoang Nguyet VNN
CTU 214.1.3	Go Dau Ha Interdiction Unit RID 40 Senior Advisor	LCDR Hoc VNN COMRID 40 LCDR Wallis USN
CTU 214.1.4	Ben Keo Interdiction unit RPG 53 Senior Advisor	LCDR Nguyen Tuan Khanh VNN COMRIVPATGRP LT Thorsen USN

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CTU 214.1.5	Tan An Interdiction Group RPG 54 Senior Advisor	LCDR Tieu VNN COMRIVPATGRU 54 LTJG McGlohon USN
CTU 214.1.6	Tuyen Nhon Interdiction Unit	LT T. W. Fritzenger USN
CTU 214.1.7	Moc Hoa Interdiction Unit	LT P. Donaldson USN
CTU 214.1.8	Light Helo Fire Team	OIC HAL-3 DET-4 HAL-3 DET-
CTU 214.1.0.3	EOD Element Ben Luc	Vacant
CTE 214.1.0.4	Salvage Craft	As assigned
CTE 214.1.0.5	Mine Division	As assigned

TASK GROUP 194.7

CTG 194.7	Riverine Strike Group Dong Tam	CDR J. E. Quick USN
CTU 194.7.3	River Assault Squadron 13 USS ASKARI	LCDR K. J. Rhea USN
CTE 194.7.3.1	River Assault Division 131 Song Ong Doc	LT T. J. Rogers USN
CTE 194.7.3.2	River Assault Division 132 USS BENEWAH	LT D. A. McMullen USN
CTU 194.7.4	River Assault Squadron 15 USS ASKARI	LCDR K. J. Rhea USN
CTE 194.7.4.2	River Assault Division 152 USS BENEWAH	LT W. L. Messmer USN
CTE 194.4.3	River Assault Division 153 Nha Be	LT T. J. Lopez USN
CTU 194.7.9	Refit and Overhaul Task Unit Dong Tam	As assigned

ADVISORS

Senior Naval Advisor	CAPT E. I. Finke USN
Senior Advisor CTF 214	CDR S. Van Westendorp USN

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Senior Marine Advisor

COL W. M. Van Zuyen USMC

Asst. Sr. Marine Advisor

LTCOL A. P. McMillian USMC

1st CZ Advisor Danang

CDR R. C. Kucera USN

2nd CZ Advisor Nha Trang

CDR J. L. Marriott USN

3rd CZ Advisor Vung Tau

CDR K. P. Hughes USN

4th CZ Advisor An Thoi

LCDR J. D. Beaube USN

3rd Riverine Advisor

LCDR Kazlowski USN

4th Riverine Advisor

CDR J. B. Eller USN

RSSZ Advisor Nha Be

CDR J. C. Williams III USN

Fleet Command Advisor Saigon .

LCDR J. J. Moore

Senior Shipyard Advisor

CDR R. Matzner USN

CO Clearwater ATSB Cua Viet
CDR Dong Ha RIVSECGRP

LCDR G. Fondren USN

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